

HOME NEWS

Man cleared of bomb deaths because of doubts about 'torture'

Edward Brophy, aged 39, was cleared at Belfast Crown Court yesterday of murdering 12 people with a huge incendiary bomb because a judge could not be sure his alleged confessions had not been induced by torture. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment for being a member of the Provisional IRA. He is to appeal.

Mr Brophy had been accused in the 45-day trial of the 24 restaurant bombing in Belfast in February, 1978, when seven men and five women died. The victims were at a dinner when the bomb went off. Nearly 300 others aged, many with their clothes on fire.

Mr Brophy, of Ardmore Gardens, Tully Lodge, Belfast, was also acquitted of causing 11 other explosions at nine business premises between February, 1978, and his arrest in September, 1978.

Mr Justice Kelly ruled that confessions he was alleged to have made at the Royal Ulster Constabulary holding centre at Castlereagh, near Belfast, were not admissible as evidence.

UDR boost for border

From Christopher Thomas Belfast

The Army is to spread the burden of its demanding commitment in Northern Ireland by building up the strength and effectiveness of the locally recruited Ulster Defence Regiment.

The aim is to release more regular troops for deployment within NATO, as well as to shift some of the manpower emphasis from Belfast and Londonderry to the sprawling and critically undermanned border areas.

The UDR, which is celebrating its tenth anniversary, has assumed direct military responsibility for the caged in central areas of Belfast, and is in "first line" support of the police in the southern half of the city.

In both cases it is dealing directly with the police.

A further 350 UDR soldiers are to be made available by recruiting 175 full-timers and closing five of the 41 bases in the efficiency drive. The regiment has 4,900 part-timers and 2,329 permanent soldiers, most of them "loyalists". There will be no redundancies or loss of rank among full-time soldiers because of the closures, and part-timers will be able to move to other companies.

The increasing dependence on the UDR is emphasized by the non-replacement of a three-company unit which left Belfast in February. That reduced the number of battalions in the city from three to two, leaving 1,000 regular soldiers, compared with about 1,400.

The military emphasis in Belfast remains paramount, but advances in technology have helped to reduce the number of soldiers needed in the streets. Some of the bombproof observation posts dotted around the city contain up-to-date surveillance equipment, which helps the Army to keep to the minimum number of men in vulnerable positions.

That use of technology has been a key reason why more of the manpower emphasis can be placed on border areas. Sealing the border is all but impossible, but any increased activity improves the prospect of a red-handed arrest or an arms find.

All but a fraction of the explosives and weapons used in Northern Ireland are smuggled over the hundreds of border crossings in more than 300 miles of countryside. Previous attempts to seal off some of the crossings have failed, and there is little military support for a further attempt.

The number of helicopter flying hours allowed on the border has been increased and the Army has authority to cross for limited distance into the republic's air space if it is in "hot pursuit".

The Army has 7,625 men in Ulster on two-year tours in six battalions, and 4,731 reinforcements on tour for four months. That total of 12,356 compares with 12,980 a year ago.

Correction

In the penultimate paragraph of the Whitehall brief article yesterday the word "for" was inadvertently omitted from the following sentence: "The safeguarding of the media members of the committee, who are very sharp and fight for the press".

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Pregnancy drug safe, watchdog body says

By Annabel Ferguson Health Services Correspondent

Letters are being sent to 25,000 doctors today, telling them that the Committee on the Safety of Medicines has found, for the third time, that there is no evidence to show that the drug, Debendox, taken in pregnancy, causes congenital abnormalities.

They are being sent by Richardson-Merrell, the manufacturer of the drug, because of the virtual collapse in the sales of the drug after a court case in Orlando, Florida, which found that the drug had caused birth defects in a boy.

The committee was asked to review the safety of the drug in February by Dr Gerard Vaughan, Minister of Health, because of public concern about it. It had been reviewed twice before, in 1978 and 1979, and both times found safe.

The committee completed its review on Thursday and said it saw no reason to revoke or suspend the licence of the product or to take any other action to restrict its availability.

Dr Harry Mascher, medical director of Richardson-Merrell, said yesterday that because of the publicity surrounding the case women all over the country were refusing prescriptions for the drug.

Yet 3,500,000 pregnant women in Britain had taken the drug for nausea during the past 20 years and long-term studies had shown that the level of abnormalities among their babies was the same as in the population as a whole, that is, 2 per cent, he said.

From Our Correspondent Kettering

Miss Margaret Coleman, a British Steel Corporation telephone operator, took her life because of debts caused by the national steel strike, an inquest at Kettering, Northamptonshire, was told yesterday. She was found dead in the bath at her home in Corby on February 20 after taking an overdose of sleeping tablets.

Miss Coleman, aged 42, received only £10 in hardship money and four vouchers worth £2 during the strike. She owed more than £150.

Her half-sister, Mrs Mary Powell, from New Malden, Surrey, said that Miss Coleman's pride was affected when she

Power union to keep open mind on nuclear choice

From Donald McIntyre Labour Reporter Llandudno

The union which represents technical, research, and engineering staff in power supply yesterday voted to keep its options open on the Government's controversial plans to build a pressurized water reactor (PWR) until exhaustive tests have shown whether it would be safe.

The Electrical Power Engineers' Association, which has launched a propaganda drive to counteract what it sees as the growing effectiveness of anti-nuclear campaigns, decisively supported ministerial proposals to export the nuclear energy programme over the next 10 years.

It did so in a resolution accepting that, if successful, a PWR built to British nuclear safety standards would give the United Kingdom the advantage of a choice of nuclear station type for future development.

The resolution added, however, that "it would be wise for everyone to wait until the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate have issued their report on the safety case for a British PWR before firm positions are taken up for or against a PWR".

Senior officers of the influential pronuclear union are concerned at the Government's decision to refer the plan to build two Advanced Gas Cooled Reactors (AGRs) which it strongly supports, to the Conservative State-in-Charge "think tank" in case the Government decides to postpone the AGR programme on cost grounds.

Mr John Ashford, a senior executive member and a research officer at the Berkeley Nuclear Laboratory, told the union's conference yesterday that he was concerned that government pressures might be brought to delay or cancel the commitment to install the AGRs.

That would do great harm to the industry's credibility, by being seen to respond overtly to political demands.

He added that the Government's decision in principle to install a PWR, which would allow an objective assessment of its relative effectiveness, was a "sensible, yet cautious step".

Children given penicillin after meningitis kills a boy and affects three others

From Frances Gibb Sleaford, Lincolnshire

Injections of penicillin have been given to 65 school children at the primary school in Sleaford, Lincolnshire, where an outbreak of meningitis has killed a boy aged six and put three other children in hospital.

Many of the children, aged six and seven, were in bed when they were given the injections on Monday night, after meningococcal meningitis had been contracted by four boys at the same school within a week.

Philip Smith, the boy who died, had joined Sleaford County Infants' School only at the beginning of last week. By Friday he became ill, and he died shortly after being admitted to hospital.

Three more children then developed symptoms of meningitis, an inflammation of the lining of the brain or spinal cord. The children are at St George's Hospital, Lincoln, where yesterday their condition was said to be "fairly comfortable" and seven, were in bed when they were given the injections on Monday night, after meningococcal meningitis had been contracted by four boys at the same school within a week.

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'Now we must fight for survival', Sir Charles Villiers emphasizes

By Peter Hill Industrial Editor

Customers of British Steel heaved a sigh of relief yesterday as the BRISC, which said that it was important that BSC managed a smooth return to normal working and winning back its lost share of the market.

One of the first effects will be to free the large volumes of imported steel, that have been stranded on quaysides up and down the country and subject to shunting by transport and railway unions. The total is estimated at well over 300,000 tonnes, equivalent to about a month's normal steel imports.

The release of that steel for industry will provide a relief to customers and stockholders whose stocks have been run down as the strike continued, and will tide industry over until BSC's production picks up.

BSC estimates that it has lost about 1 per cent of its 54 per cent share of the United Kingdom steel market before the strike began, and by the end of this year, assuming no more disruption, it will be lucky to have regained half of the share lost.

Over the next few weeks a further round of negotiations over the retrenchment programme will become the focus of union attention, since decisions have to be taken on the speed at which 30,000 more jobs are due to be axed.

In south Wales, where the phasing out of more than 11,000 jobs at the huge plants at Port Talbot and Llanwern will be a particularly difficult issue, the Government yesterday announced implementation of its plans to reduce measures to alleviate the impact of the steel closures.

A big factory-building programme is being launched to provide 5,000 new jobs.

Steel strike debts led to suicide

From Our Correspondent Kettering

Miss Margaret Coleman, a British Steel Corporation telephone operator, took her life because of debts caused by the national steel strike, an inquest at Kettering, Northamptonshire, was told yesterday. She was found dead in the bath at her home in Corby on February 20 after taking an overdose of sleeping tablets.

Miss Coleman, aged 42, received only £10 in hardship money and four vouchers worth £2 during the strike. She owed more than £150.

Her half-sister, Mrs Mary Powell, from New Malden, Surrey, said that Miss Coleman's pride was affected when she

Therapists to strike over longer hours proposal

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Radiographers, physiotherapists and speech therapists are to stage two one-day strikes this month and several one-week strikes after April 28 in protest over the recommendations of the Clegg comparability commission.

They are bitter about the recommendation that they should work longer hours or take a cut in pay. Radiographers work 35 hours a week, physiotherapists 36 hours and speech therapists 33 hours, but the commission recommended that they should all work 37½ hours.

The staff side of the Whitley Council, which deals with the pay of paramedical staff, decided to call off the strikes after negotiations with the management side reached deadlock on Monday.

The management side has said that no one will have to take a wage cut.

The paramedical staff have requested a meeting with Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, but have not received a reply.

Holidays threatened: Holiday-makers flying from Heathrow airport this weekend could be delayed by a ban on overtime by 2,500 airport workers and baggage loaders in support of their pay claim.

The men, members of the Transport and General Workers' Union, said yesterday that their action, which was due to start at midnight, would cause delays.

Shop stewards representing 370 baggage loaders at terminals 1 and 2 claimed that the men were working a total of 780 hours overtime a week to maintain services because of suspensions after arrests for alleged theft from luggage.

British Airways was said to have offered a 12 per cent, which the men were willing to accept if some of the 29 conditions attached to the package were dropped.

British Airways said: "We have not been asked officially to take the men's decision, so we are not able to comment."

Sir Keith steals Mr Silkin's gloom

By Hugh Noyes Parliamentary Correspondent Westminster

Sir Keith Joseph's gloomy message yesterday to the leaders of British industry as he opened the last day of the debate on the Budget was to fasten their safety belts, batten the hatches and prepare for a rough ride during the next year or two.

It must have been disappointing for Mr John Silkin, Labour's industry spokesman, who was preparing to launch his attack, to listen to the Secretary of State for Industry uttering many of the grim forecasts that he might have preferred to reserve for his own speech.

As Sir Keith remarked, the novelty of the budget strategy was in its refusal to be over-optimistic, and certainly he seemed to be carrying out that policy to the letter.

The House of Commons, accustomed to the many false dawns of the Healey era, clearly shuddered under the cold douche of reality from the Secretary of State.

Sir Keith began with a warning that the return to monetary control meant that a difficult year or two lay ahead. The squeeze on liquidity would be broadly comparable in severity to that of 1974 and 1975 and trading conditions in the short term would be difficult.

Foreign competition would continue to be a major factor in the economy, and he said that the rate of inflation would be substantially reduced for some time. Stocks would have to be run down and profit margins, already dangerously low in real terms, would be squeezed.

The budget, Mr Joseph said, was a dangerous detour from the path of steady progress. It was a detour, he said, because it was a detour from the path of steady progress. It was a detour, he said, because it was a detour from the path of steady progress.

Animal protection 'will hamper surge

By George Clark Political Correspondent

The Protection of Animals (Scientific Purposes) Bill, introduced by Mr Peter Fry, Conservative MP for Wellingborough, is due to begin its committee stage at the Commons today, but has little chance of reaching the statute book.

Last night five of its main critics on the standing committee, Sir Nigel Fisher (Kingston upon Thames, Surbiton C), John Osborn (Sheffield Hallam, C), Mr Tams Dalyell (West Lothian, Lab), Mr Edward Garrett (Walsell, Lab) and Mr Ray Mawby (Totnes, C) called a press conference at the Commons to explain their amendments.

They said the Bill would unnecessarily interfere with, and place bureaucratic restrictions on, many painless experiments, such as field surveys on wildlife and on farm animals.

Clause 2, they said, allowed animals to be used for the advancement of biological science only when "it is calculated to lead to the saving or prolonging of life".

They commented: "By its nature and definition, fundamental or basic research cannot be calculated to lead to anything other than an addition to the fund of knowledge of biological processes."

"These extensions of knowledge may or may not lead to medical advances being made. There are numerous instances in which they have done, but

Police interview Captain Phillips

Captain Mark Phillips was interviewed yesterday by the police in connection with an allegation that he kicked a horse during a cross-country event.

The police investigation arose from a complaint by Mrs Jean Pyke, aged 58, of Havant Road, Hayling Island, Hampshire, who suggested action should be taken under the Protection of Animals Act, 1911.

Weather forecast and recordings

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded Symbols are on adjoining sheet

Today

Sun rises: 6:34 am
Moon sets: 7:40 am

Sun sets: 7:35 pm
Moon rises: 9:32 pm

Last Quarter: April 8

Lighting up: 8.6 pm to 6.1 am
High water: London Bridge, 3.51 am, 7.0m; 4.8 pm, 7.1m. Avonmouth, 9.21 am, 12.0m; 9.37 pm, 13.0m. Dover, 12.57 am, 6.4m; 1.8 pm, 6.3m. Hull, 8.16 am, 7.1m; 8.20 pm, 7.2m. Liverpool, 1.7 am, 9.0m; 1.17 pm, 9.0m.
Lr = 0.3048m, 1m = 3.2808ft.

A ridge of high pressure will build over W. Europe.

Forecasts for 6 am to midnight:
London, SE, Central S, Central N, N. England, Midlands: Cloudy in places, sunny intervals developing in isolated showers; wind W or NW, moderate; max temp 12°C (54°F).

East Anglia, E. England: Scattered showers at first, sunny intervals; wind NW, fresh; max temp 11°C (52°F).

Channel Islands, SW Scotland, S. Wales: Sunny periods, scattered showers; wind NW, fresh; max temp 11°C or 12°C (52° or 54°F).

N. Wales, NW. England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW. Scotland, Central Highlands, Argyll, N. Ireland: Sunny periods, scattered showers; wind W or NW, moderate or fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).

NE. England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, Glasgow: Sunny periods, mostly dry; wind NW to W, light increasing to fresh; max temp 10°C (50°F).

Orkney, Shetland: Sunny intervals and showers; heavy in places, wintry over higher ground; wind W, veering NW, strong to gale; max temp 6° to 8°C (43° to 46°F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Friday: Mostly dry with some sunshine, but W or NW moderate to strong on Friday with some rain; warmer.

Sea passages: S. North Sea, Strait of Dover and NW. straits, decreasing to moderate; sea very rough, becoming slight.

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY MIDDAY: c, cloud; d, drizzle; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun; so, snow.

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Aberdeen	5.5	W	c
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Aberdeen	5.5	W	c

Mr Callaghan fuels left's suspicions on conference

By Michael Hatfield Political Reporter

Labour's leaders were suspected last night of being involved in a scheme to overturn a decision by the party's executive to hold a special conference next month to organize opposition to the Government's policies.

The left's suspicions were fed when Mr James Callaghan, Leader of the Opposition, called a meeting in his Commons office yesterday morning with party officers. The outcome is that NEC members have been summoned to an unscheduled meeting next Wednesday to discuss the special party conference.

When that became known last night the official view from Mr Callaghan's office was that the leader believed that such a special conference should not be rushed and that its timing should be discussed.

But some left-wing NEC members believe that the real intention is to get the special conference decision reversed by the national executive, because the leadership does not want party policy decisions taken so early.

Those suspicions were fuelled again later when it became known that Mr Clive Jenkins announced yesterday that his visit to the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs had asked for withdrawal from the EEC and import controls should appear on the agenda.

The original proposal for a special conference came from Mr Mostyn (Moss) Evans, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

But it is believed that since then other union leaders have been expressing their horror to Mr Callaghan at the prospect of a special conference which could be controlled by the left.

Party's protest at Welsh raids

Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, has been asked to ensure that the police return documents taken from Plaid Cymru members during investigation of arson at holiday homes.

In a letter the chairman of the party's Merthyr Tydfil branch, Mr Bledwyn Hancock, said police raided the homes of at least four prospective parliamentary candidates and his branch secretary.

Go-ahead for speed record

The Lake District special planning board agreed at a meeting in Kendal yesterday to allow the world water speed record attempt to go ahead on Conistone, provided Mr Tony Fahey, of Manchester, gets the other permissions he needs under the new Conistone by-laws from the Royal Yachting Association and the Union Internationale Motonautique.

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disclosed that a call had

To avoid waste, local authorities should keep voluntary bodies under their control.

The lake is the only large stretch of water in the Lake District without public motor road access, but it has a foot and bridle path round it.

The merits of the two water schemes and those of a third which would not interfere with either lake but would be substantially more expensive are still being argued by counsel at the public inquiry in Whitehaven, north of its west.

The inquiry which will adjourn tomorrow for the Easter recess, may continue until June.

Union threatens engagements

It was announced that the five orchestras had collected 130,000 signatures calling for their preservation.

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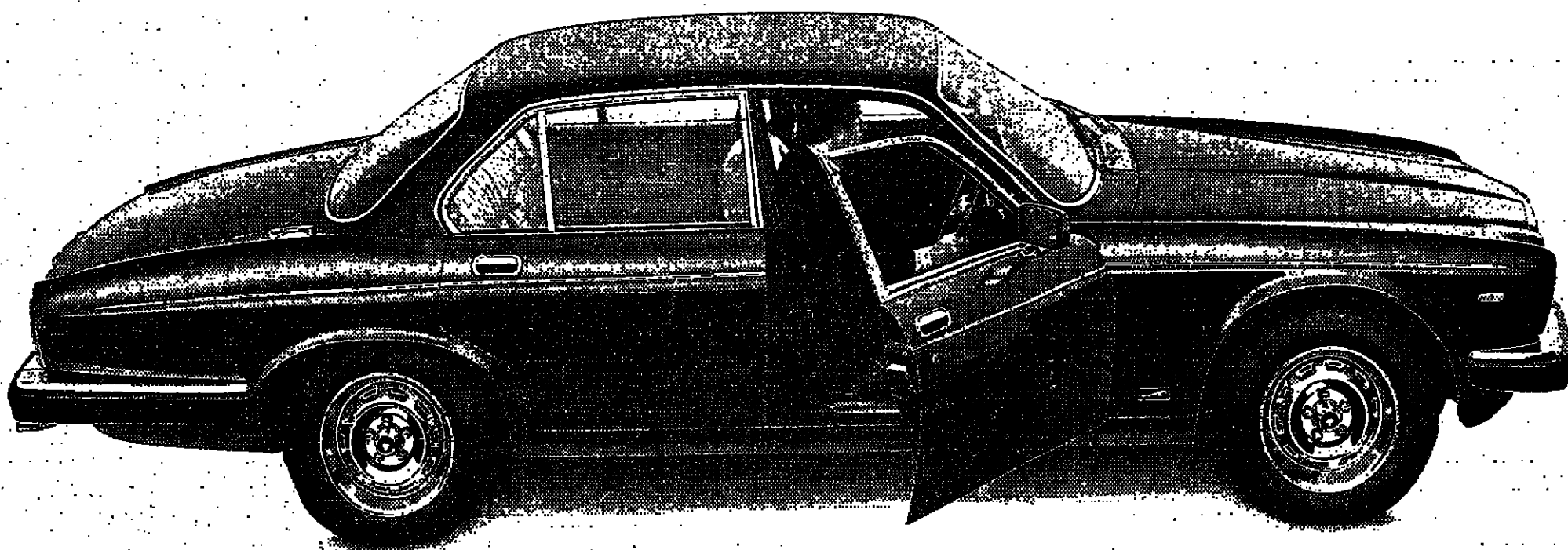
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*Motor Magazine Jan. 26, 1979.

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WEST EUROPE

French left fiddles as its election hopes go up in smoke

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 1

The French left is giving a splendid demonstration of fiddling while Rome burns, or rather while its chances in the presidential elections are going up in smoke.

After the interminable and sterile controversy as to whether M. Georges Marchais, the Communist leader, returned from forced labour in Germany in 1943, as he himself maintains, or in 1944 as a voluntary worker, the press is now revealing in an equally stimulating debate as to whether he first went to Moscow in 1955 as a student of the International Party school, which would explain his rapid promotion in the party hierarchy, or in 1959 to attend the twenty-first congress.

The Communist Party's central committee have condemned what it described as "an aggression on an exceptional scale led by the right and the Socialist Party".

The irony is that while the official Socialist Party leadership continues to back the notion of a union of the Left with the Communists, which the Communists and a substantial part of the Socialist Party reject, the controversy has been actively fuelled by two publications which stand very close to the Socialist Party.

The Paris daily *Le Matin* and the weekly news magazine *Le Nouvel Observateur* have both accused M. Marchais of lying. He has countered with the charge that the Socialist Party wants to "make permanent the division of the left which it has provoked and prepare the conditions for a winning alliance in the future with the right".

M. Charles Fiterman, the secretary of the Communist Party's central committee, told a press

conference today that M. Mitterrand used the most reactionary arguments to weaken the Communist Party. "By outdoing the right in anti-communism, and increasing the divisions of the left, François-Mitterrand merely serves the interests of the Giscardian regime, its policy of austerity and of submission to Germany and of allegiance to the United States," he said.

It is difficult to assess the impact of the controversy on public opinion. An opinion poll published some time ago showed that a high percentage of people thought it damaged the Communist Party. The results of local by-elections in recent weeks show that the left as a whole has lost ground in the past 18 months.

But while the Communist rank and file is on the whole closing ranks around its assaulted leadership, Socialist voters tend to support candidates of the Government majority rather than back a Communist when he is the only standard bearer of the left.

But the Socialist Party seems incapable of profiting from the Communists' difficulties. It is deeply divided as to who shall be its candidate in the presidential elections next year, what kind of Socialism he should represent and what the party's attitude should be towards the Communists.

M. Michel Rocard, the leader of the minority group in the party, and a challenger to M. Mitterrand, received a powerful boost last weekend with the open support of M. Pierre Mauroy, the Mayor of Lille and leader of one of the two most powerful Socialist branches in the country.

M. Mitterrand so far has resisted pressure from the Young Turks of his entourage to declare his readiness to stand



Experts in Stavanger examine the broken leg of the oil rig yesterday.

17 more oil rig disaster victims found

Oslo, April 1.—The bodies of 17 more victims of the disaster in which the offshore oil rig Alexander I. Kjellland capsized have been found on the seabed, Stavanger police reported today.

The disaster last Thursday killed 123 of the 212 oilmen on the rig. Sixty-seven bodies have been recovered and divers are searching for 56 still missing in the Edda oilfield area.

Many of those missing after the world's worst offshore oil industry disaster may be trapped inside the 10,000-ton over-

turned rig. The divers have not yet entered the rig, which was a floating hotel for workers.

The oil rig capsized after one of its five steel legs was broken off during a storm. The broken leg was towed to Stavanger and thoroughly inspected by the four-member Norwegian commission of inquiry yesterday.

It was also checked by experts from Det Norske Veritas classification society for ships and oil rigs and from Phillips Petroleum Company, which had chartered and operated the Norwegian-owned French-built structure.

The commission, headed by a judge, Mr. Thor Naeshelm, also is working on the Alexander I. Kjellland's sister rig, the Henrik Ibsen, which has just been completed, to study construction details. "We will not come up with any indications about the possible reason for the accident before all our work has been completed," Mr. Naeshelm told the Oslo newspaper *Verdens Gang* today.

The possibility of salvaging the rig and towing it away from the Edda field to Stavanger without damaging pipelines is also being analysed by Phillips and maritime experts.—AP.

France goes on with nuclear energy plan despite protests

From Ian Murray
Paris, April 1

Scarcely a day goes by without some form of protest in France against the nuclear energy programme. The Government, however, sustained by opinion polls that have always shown a good majority in favour of nuclear power, is determined to continue its ambitious programme to make France independent of imported energy supplies.

It is planned that by the year 2,000 up to 80 per cent of all electricity in France will be generated from nuclear power, with only about 10 per cent from oil.

But if that programme is to succeed, it means that power stations will have to be built in places like Plogoff on the remote Pointe du Raz in Brittany. To build the power stations, a site has to be found with a good granite base for foundations and plenty of water nearby for cooling the system.

Such places are rare. More than 50 per cent of the entire French coastline is now urbanized, and in Brittany the figure has reached 73 per cent. Plogoff is one of the very few places with enough rock, water and isolation to build a plant.

These are the very virtues, of course, which 2,359 inhabitants of Plogoff want to preserve, and which has caused them literally to man the barricades against even the planning inquiry investigating the proposition.

This stand by the small peasant population has, of course, attracted other protesters as well as the militant Breton nationalists, all of whom see Plogoff as a cause capable of winning much popular support.

Anti-nuclear and environment groups are planning their hopes of Plogoff winning the day as a first step towards France backing down on its nuclear programme.

For the people of Plogoff, however, it is the idea of building the huge power station on

their beloved cliffs which seems to cause the deepest anger. Although unhappy about possible nuclear dangers, their real argument is against what they see as vandalism against one of the few unspoiled sections of the French coastline.

Some of the locals will even admit quietly and very secretly that they would welcome the scheme because it would bring money into the area. Although notices everywhere say "Plogoff is not for sale," a number of land deals have been taken place recently with small farmers buying up property in the belief that they will make a good profit by selling to the electricity authority when planning permission is granted.

The protest movement also seems to have attracted a number of small businesses to the area. A couple of new bars have opened, which are doing brisk business in selling protest badges and drinks to the crowds of supporters.

Nevertheless it is incontestable that the people of Plogoff are united in opposing the plan.

At night they turned out by the hundreds in work parties to build barricades to try to keep the vans holding the inquiry documents out. By day they always managed to assemble a large crowd to watch the vans disappear.

Inevitably the demonstrations attracted troublemakers. In an area where unemployment is well above the national average, young people found something positive to do in hurling stones at policemen in pursuit of a cause of which their elders approved. The peaceful intentions of the Plogoff demonstrators often disappeared in a cloud of tear gas smoke fired to disperse a dangerous group of youths with slingshots.

This type of protest is becoming a French tradition. The watchmakers at the Lip factory of Besançon have resisted a liquidation order for over six years. The sheep farmers of the Lanas plain have stopped the French Army for a decade from extending its firing range there. Catholic traditionalists have held a

church in the centre of Paris against the law for three years. These cases have been at stalemate for some time now, with the state unwilling to give way for fear of setting a precedent and fearful of acting too harshly for fear of creating martyrs.

But none of these issues is as vital to the future of the French economy as is the nuclear programme. If Plogoff is rejected, somewhere else will be found, and the inevitable objections at a new site will have taken heart by Plogoff's success.

As the French planners see it there really is no sensible alternative to the nuclear programme. A young girl standing in the pouring rain one day at Plogoff wearing an anorak to which was stitched the badge "Solar, yes: nuclear, no," seemed to sum up the environmentalists' hopes for a sun-powered France.

Nuclear stations are like leech colonies. They are essential, but nobody wants them in their own backyard.

Terrorist groups share close links

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, April 1

The close relationship between terrorist groups of different countries has been shown up by police interviewing the 23 people arrested since last Friday for questioning about a series of shootings and bomb attacks.

Among them are five Italians and a Spaniard. The rest, who are French, include people suspected of links with two terrorist groups which have operated in France over the past decade.

The round-up seems to have begun after the discovery of a grey Mercedes used in an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate M. Robert Galley, the Minister for Co-operation, last month.

However, police have not been able to find the couple said to have run away from the Mercedes after the unsuccessful attack. The couple were named today as Jean-Marc Rouillon and Nathalie Menigon, members of the Direct Action Group, which claimed responsibility for the shooting.

The common bond of extreme left-wing views and a ruthlessly violent way of making them known brought French revolutionaries into contact with the Italian Red Brigades. Police believe that the Direct Action Group was formed to coordinate activities between them.

In the Paris flat, where police found members of the group had been meeting, 1,350lb of explosive and large stock of weapons, including rifles, revolvers and grenades were discovered.

Italian arrests: Five alleged members of the Red Brigades were arrested by Italian police in a dawn raid in Ancona today. One of those held was a Jordanian student. All had been charged with subversion and membership of an armed group, a police spokesman said.—Reuters.

Drive against moose hunters

Gävle, Sweden, April 1.—Police believe they have broken up a gang of illegal moose hunters who shot the animals from their cars on a highway and butchered them in their barns, a district prosecutor said today.

Three men have been arrested on suspicion of killing some 50 moose. If found guilty they face a maximum penalty of one year in prison and loss of their cars and rifles, he added.—Reuters.

OVERSEAS

Summit call in Lusaka for economic liberation

Lusaka, April 1.—A nine-nation southern African economic summit opened here today with a warning that the region's struggle to coordinate development and lessen its dependence on South Africa would be long and hard.

Sir Seretse Khama, the President of Botswana and chairman of the one-day conference, said in his opening speech that "the struggle for economic liberation will be as bitterly contested as has been the struggle for political liberation."

The meeting, hosted by President Kaunda of Zambia, brought together the leaders of the five "frontline" states that backed the guerrilla war for an independent Zimbabwe—Tanzania, Zambia, Mozambique, Angola and Botswana—plus Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister designate of Zimbabwe, and delegations from Lesotho, Malawi and Swaziland.

Sir Seretse made it clear that the group, while seeking to lessen its dependence on trade and transport links with South Africa, was not seeking outright confrontation. "We will not come up with any indications about the possible reason for the accident before all our work has been completed," Mr. Naeshelm told the Oslo newspaper *Verdens Gang* today.

The aim of the summit is to approve a declaration drawn up at a conference in Arusha, Tanzania, last July combining measures to coordinate development, to reduce economic ties with Pretoria.

President Kaunda hailed the "epoch-making victory of Zanu-PF" in the Rhodesian election and said that Namibia (South-West Africa) "will be free and will in the not too distant future take her place in the summits for the economic reconstruction of our region."

Dr. Kaunda described the summit as a "logical consequence" of events in Rhodesia and "part of the implementation of the OAU (Organization of African Unity) declaration calling for African unity."

He added: "We are happy that Zimbabwe has joined the ranks of nations whose major concerns are not merely the search for political freedom, but also consolidation of that freedom."—Reuters and AP.

Israel relents on El office in Tel Aviv

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, April 1

After months of stalemate the Israeli Government has given in to concerted European diplomatic pressure and granted the EEC permission to open its new office in Tel Aviv rather than Jerusalem, the official capital, whose exact status remains a sharply contested international issue.

The sudden switch in the Israeli position is regarded in Western diplomatic circles as a considerable climbdown and has been accompanied by the withdrawal of publicists inside Israel. A senior Foreign Ministry official refused to comment on the reasons beyond stating: "They way is now open for the EEC to open its office and it will be opening in Tel Aviv."

Until this stipulation about Jerusalem was withdrawn the EEC had refused to go ahead with earlier plans to send representatives to Israel, although a senior official had already been appointed in Brussels to head the new mission. It was pointed out to the Israeli press that "Hollant, all members in Israel have their national embassies in Tel Aviv. As yet, no date has been set for the opening of the office. But I understand that our will be announced soon. At the same time the Israeli Government

plans to initiate the Knesset which the EEC represents. Only the Israeli Government has given the diplomatic privilege. Since taking office in 1977, the right-wing Government of Mr. Begin has made a special effort to persuade foreign journalists and organizations to operations in Jerusalem. It felt that this would be the city's position as an undisputed capital. But to date the city has not enjoyed a great success largely because Arab pressure against moving operations to Jerusalem is so strong.

Although there is public explanation, reasoning behind the decision is unclear. It is understood that the Government does not want to lose an important channel of communication with the EEC. The EEC has been a major supporter of Israel's agricultural and other economic development since the 1950s. There are complaints that the Israeli citrus fruit materialized.

Europe to aid neighbor as well as Zimbabwe

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, April 1

M. Claude Cheysson, the European Commissioner for aid and development, said on arrival here today that the European Community would provide development assistance not only for Zimbabwe, but also for neighbouring states.

It seems likely therefore that the possibility of Community assistance for the development of regional transport and communications systems will be raised when M. Cheysson meets Mr. Robert Mugabe, the Prime Minister-designate tomorrow.

Mr. Mugabe returned to Salisbury from Lusaka this evening after attending the nine-nation summit conference to create a southern African transport and communications commission to coordinate the use of existing transport systems.

The summit emp one of the first priorities of the reopening links that connect Zimbabwe with the Indian Ocean is one area where it is likely to call for assistance.

At an airport conference after his Salisbury today, said the Comm already given 4.7r dollars (£3.3m) to the war to Bo Zulu and had ad Rhodesian dollars wards the rep refugees prior to a general election.

Lord Soames, t had lunch with today. M. Cheysson visit Mozambique.

Chad drifting into civil war as fighting enters 11th day

Ndjamena, April 1.—Chad seemed to be drifting into civil war today as fighting for the capital entered its eleventh day and signs that attempts to negotiate a ceasefire had been abandoned.

Fierce clashes continued last night between the Armed Forces of the North (FAN), supporters of Mr. Hissene Habre, the Defence Minister, and President Goukouni Oueddei's People's Armed Forces (FAP).

Sporadic fighting and bursts of machine gun fire could be heard in the north and northeast of the capital, the centre and in the customs area near the Chari river. But fighting appears to have died down a little.

All negotiations appeared blocked with telephone contacts between the two leaders apparently broken off. A meeting yesterday to study another ceasefire failed to take place, without any reason being given.

Withdrawal of the Congolese peace-keeping force continued. Two Congolese Antonov 24 aircraft and an Angolan Hercules C130 made four evacuation flights on Sunday and seven yesterday. The Antonovs were ferrying soldiers from here to Gervais in northern Cameroon. The big Hercules take them from Garoua back to the Congo Republic.

The peace-keeping force was installed under terms of the Lagos agreement on national reconciliation reached last year between Chad's 11 armed factions. The agreement called for the 50 Congolese soldiers to be joined by contingents from Guinea and Benin, but these reinforcements never arrived.

Three French army surgical teams were expected to start operating this afternoon on casualties evacuated from here by the International Red Cross across the Chari River to Kousseri, Cameroon. The surgeons are equipped with two mobile France-Press, AP.

Operating rooms—Agence Forces advancing: Mr. Habre's troops claimed today that they were advancing through Ndjamena pushing back forces commanded by President Oueddei, reports reaching Paris said.

Mr. Habre's 3,000-man force, heavily armed with 100mm guns, rocket launchers and mortars, was reported to be gaining ground though its advances were slightly more numerous.

As fighting entered the eleventh day, there were indications that the French, Saudi, Sudanese and other diplomats had abandoned their effort to stop the fighting.—UPI.

Carnage sl delegates f the Red C

From Alan McGee
Geneva, April 1

Delegates of the Committee of the Ndjamena report by "indiscriminate during the fighting Mr. Frank Sch delegate-general for today this applied to the large number casualties, includi

W estimate a 1,500 wounded in said. "The Central very rapidly run, medical supplies."

A chartered air here tonight with medicines and dretro is a doctor, a ICR delegates and tran

According to there is no indicat the opposing forces a ceasefire, though President Goukouni Mr. Hissene Habre, Minister, is not it in principle."

But they are o recognize the Cen as a neutral z enabling Red Cross evacuate wounde Kousseri, in the of the Chari River, pit set up there medical teams can 100 patients a day.

New Yorkers begin the long hi

From Michael Leppman
New York, April 1

Millions of cheerful commuters walked, cycled and hitch-hiked to work this morning as workers on New York's bus and underground rail system and the Long Island railway went on strike for the first time in 14 years.

The morning rush hour was less chaotic than expected but officials believe things will become worse as the strike continues.

Mr. Edward Koch, the popular mayor, stood in the walkway of Brooklyn Bridge and told streams of pedestrians: "The unthinkable has happened, but life will go on." He praised their tenacity and they in turn urged him not to give in to the demand of the striking unions for large salary increases.

By a stroke of luck, the wild winds, rain and sleet of yesterday had given way this morning to crisp, sunny spring weather. The massed phalanxes of pedestrians were in a matching sunny mood as they struck up conversations with strangers, comparing boasts as to how far they had hiked.

The streets were alive with the thud of shoe leather. It would have been something of an anti-climax if the last-ditch talks, which broke down two hours after the midnight deadline had succeeded in staving off strike action. The city has been preparing for it for weeks.

Complicated emergency traffic rules were prepared and took effect at dawn today. The main intention was to ban cars with fewer than two occupants from the central area of the city and from key roads leading to it.

This did not appear to be strictly enforced, though the entrances to some bridges police were making lone motorists pick up pedestrians.

The traffic jams were not much worse than on a normal morning, possibly some had the day off for the state of the eJuch Passover holiday.

Large firms hired coaches to carry their employees, and booked others into hotels. All hotel rooms in New York are filled, hired cars have been hard to get and there has been a run on bicycles. Enterprising owners of mini-buses were cruising the avenues this morning offering rides to tired pedestrians at a price.

The unions, which represent 35,000 bus and underground workers, had been seeking an increase of 30 per cent spread over two years. The best offer made by the state-run Metropolitan Transit Authority was an increase of 18 per cent over three years.

The strikers defied a court order made under a state law banning strikes by public employees. The state was taking additional legal action today to try to force a return to work but union leaders have said they will ignore court orders. Technically, each striker could lose two days' pay for every day the strikes, and the union can be fined.

Behind the dispute is New York's long-running financial crisis, which almost brought the city to bankruptcy five years ago. The following year the transit workers settled for no

increase in salary years later for o cent.

They feel that borne the brunt o public life and that inflation is e salaries, which are (about £8,300) a y.

For their part, officials are worrie effect of too gener ment on the wage. Other city workers tionally use the settlement as a y

The city still r solvency on grant federal Governmen cials fear that C may balk at votin if they think wage are too extravag why they wanted the settlement woi merits making for client use of labour the transport autho loss of \$250m.

The difficulties pounded by the fa union leadership Mr. John Lane, it and chief negotiat into office by majority and a would be ready t official action if d he was giving way

For overseas vis will be harder to ge at Kennedy Airpo coach service to the east side termina

Severe and 1c Ave ning as usual. If th booked an hotel ro not be able to find

VAT Changes in registration limits.

The VAT registration limit has been increased to £13,500 per annum, with a corresponding quarterly limit. This applies to all non-registered people who are required to be registered on or after 27th March, 1980.

You can apply for cancellation of your VAT registration

if you are at present registered and your turnover (including VAT) will be £12,500 or less in the year beginning 1st June, 1980. Your deregistration date will be 1st June, 1980.

You may also be able to apply after 1st June, 1980, for cancellation if you have been registered for two years and your turnover (including VAT) in each of the last two years has not exceeded £13,500.

Full details of the changes

including how to apply now for deregistration from 1st June, 1980, are contained in Notice 736, obtainable from any VAT office.

Issued by HM Customs & Excise.

27/3/80 1350

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It's called Unicliffe HPD. The High Protein Diet. And this is how it works.

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HPD comes in the form of a white powder.

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The idea is, you take 2 glasses of HPD, in place of two meals a day.

Then, in the evening, treat yourself to something you can really get your teeth into.

Like a proper 800 Calorie supper.

For example, bangers and mash with baked beans and tomatoes, will still leave you enough calories for a good helping of trifle.

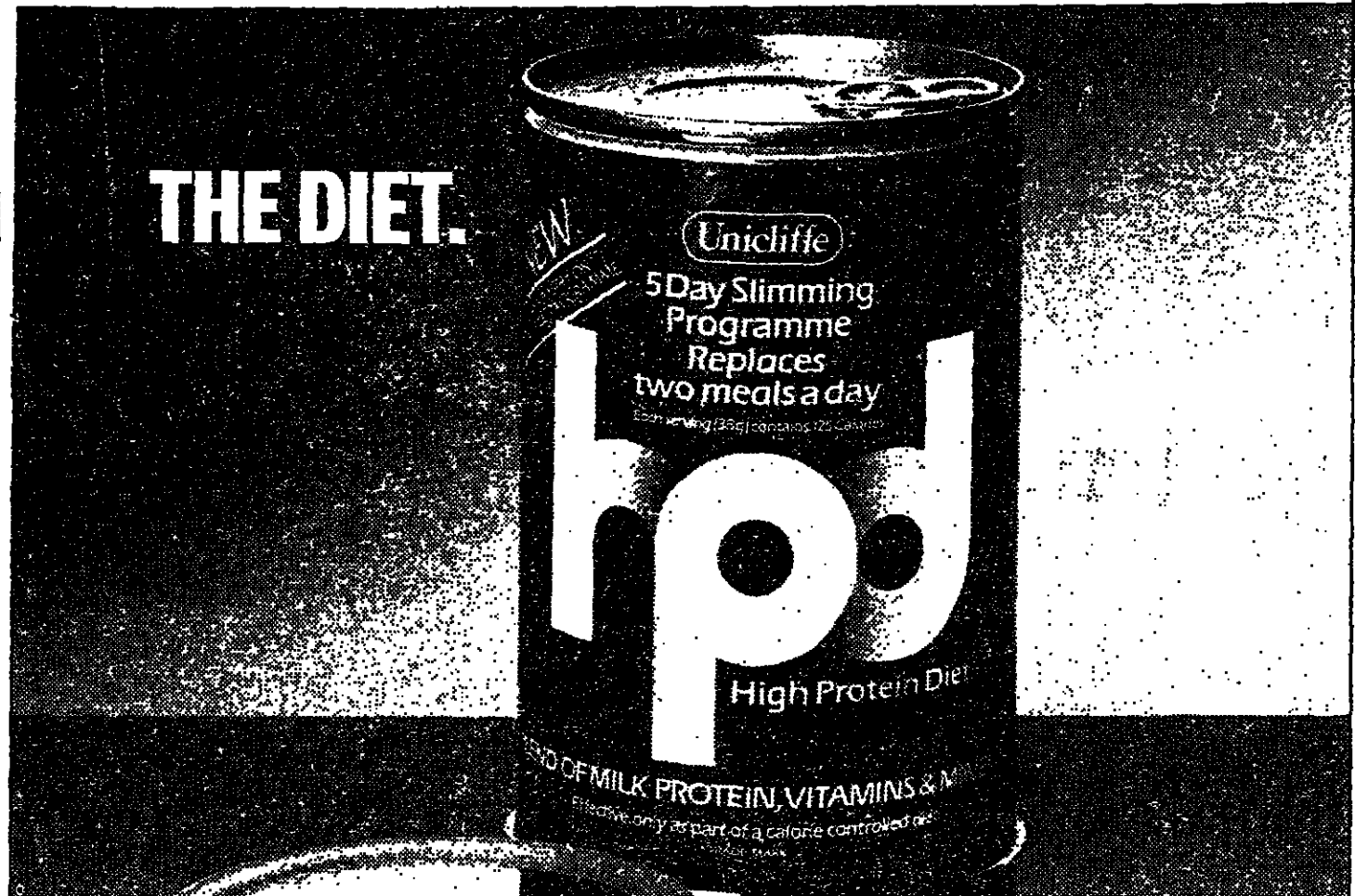
ONLY 125 CALORIES.

You see, the secret of HPD lies in the fact that each 38g serving contains just 125 Calories.

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It's this concentrated protein that helps you to feel satisfied on an HPD diet.

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Better still, you won't get bored either.

Because we've deliberately formulated HPD to be neutral tasting, you can add your own flavourings, like coffee, vanilla, pineapple or blackcurrant, whenever you fancy a little variety.

As well as all the protein you need to stay fit and healthy, HPD also contains carefully controlled quantities of vitamins and minerals. Which are essential to every properly balanced diet.

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5LBS IN 5 DAYS.

But our clinical tests give a pretty good indication of how much you stand to lose.

During trials, carried out under strict medical supervision, we recorded weight losses of up to 5lbs in 5 days.

That's why we call HPD a serious diet. It makes slimming just a little bit more fun.

UNICLIFFE HPD. THE ORIGINAL HIGH PROTEIN DIET.

OVERSEAS

Conditional hope about future of American hostages in Bani-Sadr speech to Iran crowds

From Tony Allaway
Tehran, April 1

President Bani-Sadr of Iran today raised hopes that the 49 American hostages might be transferred to Iranian Government control.

Addressing a festive rally marking the first anniversary of Iran's Islamic republic, Mr Bani-Sadr said the transfer would take place if the American Government publicly promised to keep silent on the issue for the time being.

But, as in the past, there still appeared to be some hurdles to be overcome on the path from the President's will to his ability to act. The most immediate was whether President Carter, in his reaction to Mr Bani-Sadr's message, had yet done enough to meet Iran's conditions.

Mr Bani-Sadr told the huge crowd that the country's ruling Revolutionary Council had agreed to take control of the hostages "if the United States Government makes a formal announcement that it will not, until the formation of Iran's parliament and its decision on the hostages, speak, instigate or make propaganda or claims on the issue".

There was also a special message today from the Ayatollah Khomeini who repeated his determination that the new Islamic parliament should decide the eventual fate of the hostages. The parliament is not expected to get down to serious business until June.

There was no official Iranian reaction after Mr Carter had given his reply, but independent observers who saw his comments said they did not seem to have explicitly fulfilled Mr Bani-Sadr's conditions.

Western diplomatic sources said one possibility was that Mr Carter might be waiting for voting to finish in the Wisconsin primary election before making a fuller answer meeting the requirements.

Even so, the crucial factor in Mr Bani-Sadr's plan remains the reaction of the militant students holding the hostages.

He met three of the students last night to discuss the Revolutionary Council decision, which was by no means unanimous. There is no indication so far of what, if anything, was agreed in the meeting.

The ayatollah's own message, read at today's rally by his son, did not inspire confidence that Mr Bani-Sadr had yet won his approval of the plan.

The two do not appear to have met since Saturday. Before the revolutionary council made its decision. Since then the ayatollah has been visited by Ayatollah Muhammad Behshiti, a council member who leads strong opposition to compromise on the hostage issue, and Mr Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, the Foreign Minister, who supports the President's plan.

Although the ayatollah pointedly made no reference to the issue of transferring the hostages to Government control, he spoke today in some of his most scathing terms about President Carter and the United States.

The ayatollah said the Shah's flight from Panama to Egypt meant that a solution has become more difficult. If the students held their ground the ayatollah would have to publicly order them to hand over the hostages. Yet in the past he has consistently sided with them in all issues.

If the ayatollah does, however, except the transfer it has been suggested that in the initial stages it might be a technical affair which would leave the hostages and students inside the embassy but with the Government able to have full access to them.

Ayatollah Khomeini's message today was an angry reply to the message the Iranians say President Carter sent "the ayatollah last week. Describing America as the 'great Satan' he accused President Carter of 'trying to cheat us with flattery'."

This new plot of Carter resembled the plot the Shah used at the end of his reign when he resorted to cheating and flattery," the Ayatollah

said. He called on all Iranians to unite and "use all your might to dash the hopes of America, our main enemy".

In his speech, President Bani-Sadr spoke of the two messages he had received from President Carter. The second of these indicated that the Iranians had agreed to a March 31 deadline for transferring the hostages, provided the United States held back from imposing sanctions on Iran.

According to Mr Bani-Sadr, President Carter said the Iranian President had not kept his promises and gave a warning that because of a shift in American reaction "the transfer will become more difficult if delayed".

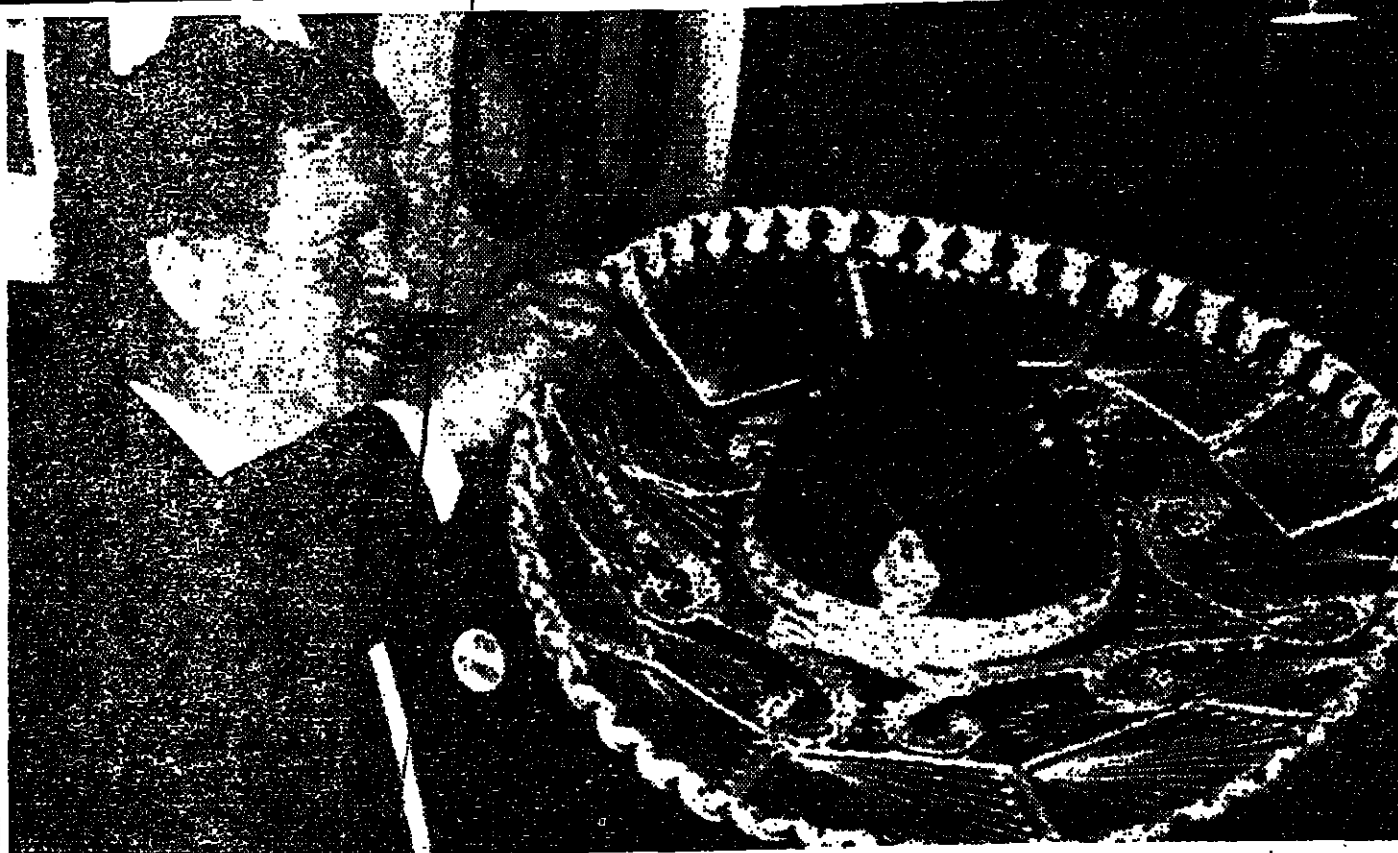
Mr Bani-Sadr said Mr Carter had told him: "We have shown our good will by agreeing to the United Nations Commission and refraining from any harsh statement concerning Iran and have tried to keep the position of Mr Bani-Sadr in consideration". It then said that America expected Iran to live up to its own responsibilities.

Wheelchair: About 500,000 people, including veterans in wheelchairs and victims of the former Shah's Savak secret police massed today at the great Azadi (Liberty) Square in the west of the city to celebrate the Islamic republic's first anniversary.

President Bani-Sadr and Mr Ahmad Khomeini, son of the Ayatollah Khomeini, arrived by helicopter and were greeted by a huge ovation. The President had to be practically carried to the speakers' platform, losing his glasses in the process.

As the meeting closed, police cordons were knocked over and President Carter had to use force to get Mr Bani-Sadr through the crowds to his helicopter. General Cadmeh, the armed forces chief of staff was lifted bodily into the air and carried to his car.

As Mr Bani-Sadr's helicopter lifted off the crowd shouted "long live Bani-Sadr". —Agence France-Presse.



Hat trick: Senator Edward Kennedy with a large Mexican hat which was given to him by some of his admirers in Milwaukee on the last day of his Wisconsin campaign.

Tehran Government persuaded to take over embassy captives

Continued from page 1

unhelpful "clarifications" by Administration officials here who were anxious to avoid any new deterioration in American-Iranian relations.

It now appears that the Administration sent at least two messages via intermediaries to Iranian leaders last week. The messages warned the Iranians that they could expect new sanctions if the hostages continued to be held by the militants in the embassy.

At the same time, the Administration called on its West European allies and Japan to make the same point to the Iranians. The latter agreed to make representations to the Iranians explaining that Washington's patience was now at an end.

President Bani-Sadr and Mr Sadeq Ghotbzadeh, the Iranian Foreign Minister, apparently decided to use the messages as a way of convincing members of the Revolutionary Council that the time had come for the Government to take control of the hostages. But they chose either to fabricate new contents for the messages or to use the more conciliatory parts in them to persuade their colleagues on the council to approve the transfer.

Mr Carter, it was alleged by the Iranians, had both admitted past mistakes in America's relationship with the deposed Shah and expressed some sympathy for the militants holding the hostages.

The publication of such views posed a serious problem for Mr Carter in an election year. Several statements were issued

from the White House which initially appeared to deny even the existence of the letters. But it later transpired that the thrust of the messages and their authorship. The messages were signed by Administration officials as the Iranians had maintained.

Waldheim comment: Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, said today that a handover of the American hostages in Tehran to the Revolutionary Council would pave the way for the resumption of the work of the United Nations commission of inquiry.

The five-man mission suspended its work last month when the youths holding the hostages would not allow them to be interviewed.

Woman is jailed over Hungary escape attempt

By Gabriel Ronay

A conspiracy of hearts hatched by two Hungarian women to reunite a young Pole with his fiancée in the West ended in a Hungarian court at the weekend.

Fräulein Maria L.-mann was sentenced by the Győr county court to five months' imprisonment for attempting to smuggle the young Pole to the West with a false passport.

Fräulein Margarethe Grudinsky, who was engaged to the Pole, was found guilty of the same charge. The court exercised leniency because of her poor health and fined her 60,000 forints (£1,500) and expelled her.

Both had been in detention since Christmas. The Pole was extradited to Poland, where he is to be tried.

Big rise baby deaths near nuclear power

From Michael Leaf
New York, April 1

Deaths of babies age of one double 10-mile radius of the island nuclear power the six months of death there a yet figures were revealed by Gordon Macleod, Secretary of Health, Pennsylvania when it occurred.

There were 31 deaths between September 1979, for only 14 in the year 1978. Other figures showed abnormality born near the accident to be one per cent with a rate of one in 5,000.

Dr Macleod said infant deaths were rarely caused by radiation from the plant accident. Officials maintained that the deaths were not sufficient to be near the plant reason could be logical stress which created in pregnant.

He argued, however, was important for the deaths to be. Dr Macleod was given his state post last.

Dr Macleod said the figures, this week, are sure to be a cause for concern. The figures, this week, are sure to be a cause for concern.

The residents are not believe officials that there is bearing in mind the information from company during the One couple is a chemist and his plant for damages, their baby was still of the radioactivity during the accident.

TWA introduce a new class of comfort-Ambassador Class.



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It's the way all businessmen should go to the USA. TWA's new Ambassador Class is in a class of its own.

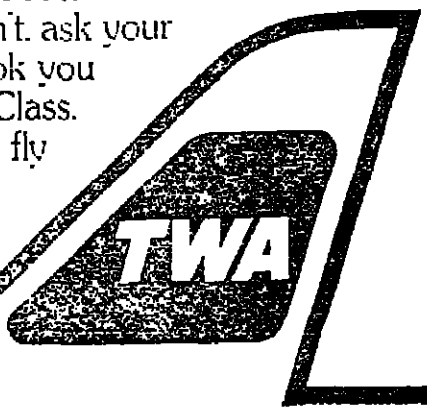
The drinks are free. So are the headsets for music and movies. Attention is special, with a priority choice of meals, an appetiser, and all served in First Class style with linen, glass and china. There are even little extras, like complimentary slipper socks and toilet articles.

Ambassador Class has its own section of the plane and, whenever possible, you will have an unoccupied seat next to you.

Ambassador Class will be available on all TWA widebodies from April 15. These are 747s and TriStars—the only widebodies TWA fly, because they're the ones passengers like.

Combined with TWA's Airport Express this is another way TWA is trying to take the hassle out of flying and make it more of a pleasure. If you've got business in the States, or even if you haven't, ask your Travel Agent to book you TWA Ambassador Class. You'll never want to fly any other way.

You're going to like us



Bribes for doctors and teachers

Continued from page 1

and children there's sometimes a competition to see who can give the most generous presents. And the teacher? Well, she gets used to it, even though there's a hint of bribery which is sometimes quite obvious."

The sick child's parent: "How can I not bring a box of chocolates to the doctor, or a nicely wrapped bottle of cognac? It's the done thing. Like saying thanks for your trouble. There are several ways of treating someone: with special attention or just usually. So what's wrong?"

The chief accountant: "You have to respect and please the auditor. For instance, I know that there were no financial irregularities, but still I am afraid. If he wants, he can always find something wrong. I don't know whether it's a present or a bribe—a bribe I suppose. If he's not given anything, the auditor can always hint at what he would like."

The farm manager: "I won't elaborate, I'll just give you the facts. We took a tractor engine to be repaired. When I sent a mechanic to collect it, he came back without it. When I asked him the problem he said: 'in return for the engine they want a sheep.' So we had to slaughter one and send him back with it. In the old days they would fix things for a bottle of cognac. Now they want a sheep. What will be next I don't know."

The council chairman: "I don't like talking about such things, but if you don't mention my name I'll tell you frankly, because I've had enough. This person you have to take out to supper, that one for a day's hunting and the other one for a sauna. Naturally it all costs money and who is going to pay? We're not doing this for ourselves, but for our region."

The worst thing of all, the paper said, was that in the end it was the state that had to pay for all the bribes. Nobody paid from his own pocket. The money was always way or another, from the office or these to buy presents to plain stealing.

Sovietskaya Ros. ted that in some he be bribed jobs properly, such gatory five-ruble for those who cleared the bath's rooms in health other cases people ancial inspectors bribed to avoid be scientific.

If no one off would the entry off, the paper said doctors, teachers at distributors not de properly as laid d law, instead of givi attention to some w ing others?

The law presc punishment for any a bribe and, Soviete concluded, the law enforced.

Bomb blasts end uneasy silence in San Salvador

San Salvador, April 1.—A spate of bombings in a residential area of San Salvador broke nearly 36 hours of tense quiet after the weekend violence in the city's main square in which 31 people were killed.

Authorities said eight bombs exploded in the suburb of Colonia Escalon. Most of the bombs seemed to have been aimed at businesses. Residents said they heard up to 16 explosions.

There were no immediate reports of injuries or of the extent of damage. Two armoured

troop carriers were seen rumbling toward the area shortly after the bombings last night.

Left-wing and right-wing factions have launched a wave of terrorism against the ruling military-civilian junta, which is trying to introduce land reforms and nationalize banks while cracking down on leftists in the countryside.

Violence broke out on Sunday at the funeral of the assassinated Archbishop, the Most Rev Oscar Arnulfo Romero, when 31 people died and 148 were injured. —AP.

Death sentence for man who killed British pilots

Zajecar, Yugoslavia, April 1.

A 39-year-old Yugoslav was sentenced to death today for war crimes by a court here. Vojislav Rajkovic, a construction worker, was found guilty of killing 49 unarmed people during the Second World War, including captured Communist partisans, two unidentified British pilots, two Soviet soldiers and two Bulgarians. He admitted the killings but

pleaded not guilty, saying he had carried out the orders of superior officers.

He was a member of the Royalist Chetniks who fought against Marshal Tito's partisans during the war.

Mr Rajkovic had served eight years in prison immediately after the war for fighting against the partisans, but his war crimes remained undetected until late last year. —Reuters.

Body of millionaire's kidnapped son found in shallow grave in Tahiti hills

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, April 1

The body of M Olivier Breaud, 26-year-old son of the millionaire French Banker M Jean Breaud, and brother-in-law of the French pop singer Sacha Distel, was found by French criminal police investigators in Tahiti yesterday.

He had been kidnapped on March 26 in Papeete, where he ran several of his father's business interests. A ransom of 10m francs (about £1m) was demanded for his release.

M Jean Breaud had refused to get in touch with the kidnappers or discuss payment of the ransom until he was provided with proof that his son was still alive.

The body of the victim was discovered in hills a few miles

from Papeete, where it had been hastily covered with a few shovelfuls of earth and branches. According to the police investigators, M Olivier Breaud had been hit on the head with an iron bar and a Polygonian club and died of his injuries on the day he was kidnapped.

Three suspects, Yves Le Goff, aged 36, his wife, Claude, aged 34, and an associate, Daniel Chelle, aged 40, were detained by the police yesterday.

The three had come from France to Tahiti in 1977 to set up a textile factory to produce cotton products for tourists. They have been charged with murder.

Police say the victim was lured to an empty house in the suburbs of Papeete. Then he

was said to have been taken to a textile plant at F. town near Papeete. Circumstances which have been clarified, by his kidnappers, tried unsuccessfully to body, and finally to the hills to conceal.

The kidnappers are to have got in touch with friend of M Jean Breaud, when his already dead to demand of the ransom.

Immediately cordoned whole island, subject and sea traffic to trols, and began a B Reports that M B Breaud was removed from a yacht were d spread to reassure nappers.

Mao Tse-tung remains on view again

Peking, April 1.—

leum of Mao Tse-tung opened today at closed for four n embalmed body lay in a glass-covered

A report from Ho month suggested present regime plan down the mausoleum Mao Tse-tung's body surroundings, he officials have d suggestion.

Thousands of Chi few foreign tourist shortly before 9 a the mausoleum in Ti square in the centre —UPI.

Prince arrives in Vancouver

Vancouver, April 1.

Prince of Wales at last night for a tour to British Columbia.

His main engagement to chair a meeting of the International World Colleges, of president.—Reuters.

OVERSEAS

President Assad's Baath Party reforms may be too late
Secular tension could lead to Syrian civil war

Robert Fisk, April 1. Syrian nations are looking at the internal situation in Syria, they cap at fact that their own history, caused many tensions which afflict the regime of Assad.

It is nothing new in the old suspicion between the Arab minority and the Sunni Muslims: the French once did to exploit the very tribal divisions that were the Government's Damascus.

In the present regime, however, to explain why the President—have influenced positions of ruling Syria—of the country's people, more than are Sunni but less are Alawites, of Shia Islam often by the Sunnis as a religious dissidents, Muhammad's cousin had been the true successor that the Alawites from community in Syria, rise from the poverty

of northern Syria to the political leadership of the country that has angered the Sunnis, who once exercised social and economic domination over the rural population.

The Alawite Mountains to the east of Latakia have always been among the poorest and least developed areas of Syria, and the Alawites formed a largely agrarian society whose peasants took the most menial jobs when they emigrated to the cities.

During the French mandate (1920-1946), the Government in Paris encouraged the recruitment of Syria's Alawite, Druse and Kurdish minorities into the so-called *Troupes Speciales du Levant*, a force which both suppressed local rebellions and effectively enabled France to divide and rule the sphere of influence in the Middle East.

The Sunnis came to feel, therefore, that the Alawites had helped to suppress the rise of Arab nationalism, even though the Alawites would later be found among the most vociferous proponents of pan-Arabism. It was probably inevitable, too, that the Arab Socialist Baath Party, founded by a Christian and a Sunni Muslim, should have taken root so quickly among the Alawites.

Asked in a recent interview with *The Times* how the Alawites came to achieve such distinction in the Baath, Mr. Ahmed Iskander, the Syrian Information Minister, said with considerable circumspection: "Perhaps it is because revolutions traditionally find their base among the poor."

Most important of all for the Alawites, they had gained influence through the Army.

The old French special forces eventually became the national army of Syria and Lebanon. In Syria, the Sunnis preferred commercial life to military service and so gave the Alawites a greater foothold in the Army.

Education spread only gradually to the northern part of Syria and Sunnis still constituted the most powerful group within the officer corps, but during the 1960s this changed dramatically.

By 1963 Alawites made up almost 40 per cent of the military officers in the Baath Party's regional commands. Though they were to remain a minority, they gradually acquired the positions of most influence.

President Assad's coup d'état in 1970 represented the effective supremacy of the minorities within the army.

The military and political power-brokerage in Syria tends, however, to over-simplify the sectarian tensions in the country. Many Sunnis, for example, do not dislike Alawites but they do dislike the socialism of the Baath Party. This distaste has been applied to the most influential members of the party who, of course, are generally Alawite.

Thus an upheaval in Syria in the coming months would not just constitute a straightforward attempt to overthrow President Assad: it would also open up the possibility of civil strife on a very large scale.

Mr. Assad realises this and so he has gone a long way to encourage a relatively liberal reform within the party. That this has so far failed to achieve its purpose may be because the reform is too late rather than too little.

President Assad, however, is a man of determination as well as shrewdness, and should a catastrophe threaten his Government, few Syrians doubt that he would struggle to maintain his power, even if opponents—perhaps within the Army—took control of the capital.

Law Report April 1 1980

VAT tribunal's appellate powers limited

Customs and Excise Commission (H. Corbitt (Numbis) Ltd.

Before Lord Diplock, Lord Simon of Glaisdale, Lord Salmon, Lord Scarman and Lord Lane.

A value added tax tribunal has no power, on an appeal by a taxable person under section 40 of the Finance Act 1972, against an assessment to VAT, to review the exercise of a discretion conferred by statute or statutory order on the Customs and Excise Commissioners. Such a tribunal has no general appellate jurisdiction.

The House of Lords, Lord Salmon dissenting, allowed an appeal by the Commissioners from the Court of Appeal (the Master of the Rolls and Sir Stanley Lees, Lord Justice Eveleigh dissenting) (1979) 1 W.L.R. 281, 282, 283, 284, 285, 286, 287, 288, 289, 290, 291, 292, 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, 306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315, 316, 317, 318, 319, 320, 321, 322, 323, 324, 325, 326, 327, 328, 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335, 336, 337, 338, 339, 340, 341, 342, 343, 344, 345, 346, 347, 348, 349, 350, 351, 352, 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 358, 359, 360, 361, 362, 363, 364, 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, 370, 371, 372, 373, 374, 375, 376, 377, 378, 379, 380, 381, 382, 383, 384, 385, 386, 387, 388, 389, 390, 391, 392, 393, 394, 395, 396, 397, 398, 399, 400, 401, 402, 403, 404, 405, 406, 407, 408, 409, 410, 411, 412, 413, 414, 415, 416, 417, 418, 419, 420, 421, 422, 423, 424, 425, 426, 427, 428, 429, 430, 431, 432, 433, 434, 435, 436, 437, 438, 439, 440, 441, 442, 443, 444, 445, 446, 447, 448, 449, 450, 451, 452, 453, 454, 455, 456, 457, 458, 459, 460, 461, 462, 463, 464, 465, 466, 467, 468, 469, 470, 471, 472, 473, 474, 475, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 481, 482, 483, 484, 485, 486, 487, 488, 489, 490, 491, 492, 493, 494, 495, 496, 497, 498, 499, 500, 501, 502, 503, 504, 505, 506, 507, 508, 509, 510, 511, 512, 513, 514, 515, 516, 517, 518, 519, 520, 521, 522, 523, 524, 525, 526, 527, 528, 529, 530, 531, 532, 533, 534, 535, 536, 537, 538, 539, 540, 541, 542, 543, 544, 545, 546, 547, 548, 549, 550, 551, 552, 553, 554, 555, 556, 557, 558, 559, 560, 561, 562, 563, 564, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 570, 571, 572, 573, 574, 575, 576, 577, 578, 579, 580, 581, 582, 583, 584, 585, 586, 587, 588, 589, 590, 591, 592, 593, 594, 595, 596, 597, 598, 599, 600, 601, 602, 603, 604, 605, 606, 607, 608, 609, 610, 611, 612, 613, 614, 615, 616, 617, 618, 619, 620, 621, 622, 623, 624, 625, 626, 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 632, 633, 634, 635, 636, 637, 638, 639, 640, 641, 642, 643, 644, 645, 646, 647, 648, 649, 650, 651, 652, 653, 654, 655, 656, 657, 658, 659, 660, 661, 662, 663, 664, 665, 666, 667, 668, 669, 670, 671, 672, 673, 674, 675, 676, 677, 678, 679, 680, 681, 682, 683, 684, 685, 686, 687, 688, 689, 690, 691, 692, 693, 694, 695, 696, 697, 698, 699, 700, 701, 702, 703, 704, 705, 706, 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 712, 713, 714, 715, 716, 717, 718, 719, 720, 721, 722, 723, 724, 725, 726, 727, 728, 729, 730, 731, 732, 733, 734, 735, 736, 737, 738, 739, 740, 741, 742, 743, 744, 745, 746, 747, 748, 749, 750, 751, 752, 753, 754, 755, 756, 757, 758, 759, 760, 761, 762, 763, 764, 765, 766, 767, 768, 769, 770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776, 777, 778, 779, 780, 781, 782, 783, 784, 785, 786, 787, 788, 789, 790, 791, 792, 793, 794, 795, 796, 797, 798, 799, 800, 801, 802, 803, 804, 805, 806, 807, 808, 809, 810, 811, 812, 813, 814, 815, 816, 817, 818, 819, 820, 821, 822, 823, 824, 825, 826, 827, 828, 829, 830, 831, 832, 833, 834, 835, 836, 837, 838, 839, 840, 841, 842, 843, 844, 845, 846, 847, 848, 849, 850, 851, 852, 853, 854, 855, 856, 857, 858, 859, 860, 861, 862, 863, 864, 865, 866, 867, 868, 869, 870, 871, 872, 873, 874, 875, 876, 877, 878, 879, 880, 881, 882, 883, 884, 885, 886, 887, 888, 889, 890, 891, 892, 893, 894, 895, 896, 897, 898, 899, 900, 901, 902, 903, 904, 905, 906, 907, 908, 909, 910, 911, 912, 913, 914, 915, 916, 917, 918, 919, 920, 921, 922, 923, 924, 925, 926, 927, 928, 929, 930, 931, 932, 933, 934, 935, 936, 937, 938, 939, 940, 941, 942, 943, 944, 945, 946, 947, 948, 949, 950, 951, 952, 953, 954, 955, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 968, 969, 970, 971, 972, 973, 974, 975, 976, 977, 978, 979, 980, 981, 982, 983, 984, 985, 986, 987, 988, 989, 990, 991, 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000.

The tribunal, by a majority, held that it had power to go into matters relating to the appeal de novo and to substitute its own decision. The judge, on the commissioners' appeal, reversed the tribunal.

Mr. Peter Scott, QC, Mr. Simon D. Brown and Mr. Andrew Collins for the commissioners; Mr. David Goldberg and Mr. John Walters for Corbitt.

Lord Diplock and Lord Simon agreed with the speech of Lord Lane.

LORD LANE said that the House was concerned to determine what powers a VAT tribunal had to review the exercise of the commissioners' discretion under VAT legislation.

In ordinary cases VAT was charged on the supply of goods by a trader as a percentage of the price paid by the customer to the trader. But he was allowed to set off against the amount of tax payable the amount of tax previously charged on the goods supplied to him—the "input tax". That worked fairly, provided that the trader selling to the customer was himself a taxable person. If he was not, there was no input tax of which the trader could take advantage. Thus in cases where purchases were often made from non-taxable persons (as in the present case) the trader's selling price to the customer for the same article (in the absence of the special rules) would have to vary according to whether he had bought from a taxable or non-taxable person. That would result in unfair anomalies.

The Finance Act, 1972, recognised that difficulty and provided by section 40(1): "The Treasury may by order make provision for securing a reduction of the tax chargeable on the supply of goods of such description as may be specified in the order in cases where no tax was chargeable on a previous supply of the goods and such reduction is satisfied as may be specified in the order or as may be imposed by the commissioners in pursuance of the order."

Those words expressly provided for two stages of delegated direction: the first under the order itself, the second by the commissioners in pursuance of such order.

One of the orders made under the section was the Value Added Tax (Works of Art, Antiques and Scientific Collections) Order, 1972, which gave concessions to traders by means of what had come to be known as a "margin scheme". It was contained in article 4(1) of the Order.

Such a scheme was obviously open to abuse; hence the requirement that a trader should keep certain specified records before he could claim the concession of the "margin scheme".

Article 4(1) of the Order provided: "Article 4 does not apply to any supply by a person unless he keeps such records and accounts as may be specified in the order or as may be imposed by the commissioners in pursuance of the order."

The commissioners did specify their requirements in a notice published by them—notice No. 712 (the Blue Book). It was couched in disarmingly simple language and described the VAT scheme and the accounts and records required to be kept to bring a trader within the scheme's ambit. By paragraph 18, it required that the trader should keep the records with any condition of the notice he "may be held accountable for tax on the value of his sales". Corbitt, who were required to keep the records, did not keep the required records—they were in breach of the first half of article 3(5).

Moreover, the commissioners did not recognise the records in fact kept by Corbitt as being "sufficient" for the purposes of the Order in the exercise of the discretion given them by the second half of article 3(5). That was the crux of the appeal. Was that failure or refusal by the commissioners to exercise their discretion in favour of Corbitt something which the VAT tribunal was entitled to review, or was it an exercise of discretion which was subject to review, if at all, only by way of judicial review in the High Court? The commissioners contended that their discretion was not subject to review by the tribunal and that accordingly they were entitled to assess the trader for "the amount of tax due from him to the best of their knowledge and belief" in pursuance of section 3(1) of the 1972 Act. They did so assess the tax they considered to be due from him.

The relevant appeal provisions in section 40(1) read: "An appeal shall lie to a value added tax tribunal . . . against the decision of the commissioners with respect to any of the following matters: . . . (b) an assessment under section 3 of this Act or the amount of tax payable by a trader."

The VAT tribunal, by a majority, concluded that those provisions entitled it to inquire into all matters leading up to the

assessment and consequently to substitute its own views for those of the commissioners as to what records should be kept by a trader as sufficient under the second half of article 3(5). Mr. Justice Neill disagreed with that conclusion, but the majority of the House of Lords held that the tribunal's views were correct.

The question was whether on a true construction of the various provisions set out the trader was given a right of appeal to the tribunal against an exercise of the commissioners' discretion.

The answer was brief. It could not be and was not disputed that the VAT tribunal had no jurisdiction to review the requirements as to books and records laid down (as the Act authorised the commissioners to do) in the various appendices to the Blue Book. Its task on an appeal was confined on that aspect to an inquiry as to whether the trader's books and records in fact complied with the requirements of the law. That being so, it seemed to his Lordship inconceivable that any different powers should be given to the tribunal in respect of the second half of article 3(5), namely, the discretion in the commissioners to recognize or not recognize records as kept as being sufficient. The two halves of the article were part of the same system of approval or non-approval of records. The first set of records in terms of the second in the shape of a more flexible discretion. In neither case was the trader entitled to be bound by the decision of the tribunal except on matters of fact.

The judge had expressed the matter (1979) 3 W.L.R. 281, 282 in words that were, in my view, unable to better: "It is common ground . . . that in so far as conditions are imposed in Notice No. 712 itself, they are not conditions of the VAT scheme. The tribunal can interfere with the scheme that it can substitute its view as to what are the appropriate conditions for the view of the commissioners. The tribunal can certainly consider whether or not the conditions have been met as a matter of fact but not as a matter of fact being complied with. That is something which would be a suitable subject of an appeal. But when it comes to the exercise of the discretion, the tribunal can certainly consider whether or not the conditions have been met as a matter of fact but not as a matter of fact being complied with. That is something which would be a suitable subject of an appeal. 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Social Focus

How to prove
that comprehensive schools
have not failed

With the barometer set "very stormy" for the future of comprehensive education and the Government committed to taking us back on the road to selection, an appraisal of some of the positive results of reorganization is long overdue. Today well over 80 per cent of secondary pupils are in comprehensive schools as compared with some 7 per cent in 1964 when Labour began its remarkable, probably unique example of massive structural change in a school system. Yet, though we have had political polemic in plenty and a surfeit of statistical skirmishes on exam passes, there has been no major synoptic survey (let alone evaluation) of what is different in a positive sense in the new system.

It would be absurd if official as well as popular judgment on the success or failure of the far-reaching changes of the past 15 years depended on the arid sophistication of statisticians, on fragmented studies of some of the developments, or on political prejudice one way or the other.

Surely the real test of the new system is whether and how far it has achieved what it set out to do. That was to increase substantially the opportunities of the mass of children who suffered relative deprivation under the divided system and, it was hoped, thereby to raise their educational levels. It was R. H. Tawney, dealing with social policy, who said that where you had a two-tier system then the lower tier would inevitably be worse off. There is no question that the secondary modern schools received treatment inferior to the grammar schools in almost every respect and this had serious consequences for the education of their pupils.

Looking back, as one who helped to pioneer the change and was head of schools in both systems, I do not think there is any doubt that reorganization changed all that. Where an area has gone comprehensive there is now one level of provision in resources, the "tools of the trade", books, materials and equipment and, most important of all, staffing. Yet there is little comment on the enormous difference this has made.

Though the newly built secondary moderns were sometimes not too badly off in facilities and amenities, comprehensive schools were usually planned to be better, as for example in the case of workshops for technical studies. Again, the secondary moderns usually suffered from severe shortages of specialist and graduate teachers who gravitated to the grammar schools where they were able to teach to more advanced levels and had better salary prospects. This decisive dichotomy has disappeared and the comprehensive have their full quota of specialist staff.

For the first time, as a result, there has been the possibility of giving children something like an all-round education. Science and language laboratories, studies in engineering and the arts are available, the appropriate specialist teachers, have fundamentally changed the curricular patterns of secondary education for masses of children. Some commentators have sneeringly referred to the new "palaces" that were built; they conveniently forget that these made possible the educational objectives they frequently demanded—science, art and music, languages and physical recreation as central features of secondary education.

Broadening the curriculum was thus a crucial feature of the changeover. While the Department of Education and Science woke up to the benefits of a core curriculum like a dormouse after a long winter sleep, the idea was at the heart of the educational thinking of the comprehensive pioneers. They were concerned, not only with extending the educational programme of the secondary modern, but also of the grammar school pupil. In how many grammar schools, for example, was technical education taken seriously or even provided? It was in the grammar schools, with their almost exclusively academic orientation, that the alleged failure of schools to appreciate the importance of productive industry originated. How much worse that problem would be but for reorganization, which widely extended technical education. Yet you will look in vain for any recognition of this in the prejudiced pronouncements of the anti-comprehensive platform.

It is fashionable today to press the claims of the gifted child. Fair enough—but let us not forget that the biggest educational weakness has always been the failure to give a fair deal for large numbers of children. Here the comprehensive have begun seriously to dent the problem for the first time with the enormous increase in attention paid to these disadvantaged and neglected children. Remedial education has become a major new discipline made possible by the favourable staffing ratios of comprehensive which secondary moderns did not have. And along with this has come the key role now played in secondary education of pastoral

care, which was practically non-existent before. With all my inner city school experience I shudder to think what these fostering areas would have been like but for the skilled and dedicated work of pastoral staffs grappling with almost intractable difficulties while under fire from the gibes of cheap, sensational commentators blethering mischievously about blackboard jungles. It is all too often forgotten that the comprehensive reform coincided with a new permissive ambience in society. We should be grateful to the schools for the way they are trying to cope with social problems not of their making, thrust upon them by parents, the media and "progressives" who want the schools to treat children like adults.

We hear a great deal these days, and rightly so, of the gap in the education of the 16-to-19 age group and of the effect of this on the economy. Let us therefore remember that while staying on after the leaving age was very much a minority experience in the secondary moderns, more than 60 per cent of comprehensives have sixth forms and to that extent are alleviating the problem. For these pupils are largely "new" sixth formers, outside the academic stream, and education and industry" gurus so often attack. The contribution of the comprehensive in curriculum innovation for these youngsters has not been recognized.

It is time a proper study was made of the comprehensive education system of all these developments. I am sure the result would be to lay forever to rest the substantial but malignant ghost, the "failure" of the comprehensive school.

Max Morris

Training a new generation of engineers

Two recent unconnected events—the publication of the "Finniston" report, and the collapse of Meccano—may each have a significant impact on the training of engineers in the United Kingdom.

It was no surprise that the major part of the Finniston report on engineering in the United Kingdom deals with training and education. This was a relatively easy topic to cover compared with the more difficult question of industry utilization of engineers. However, it is an appropriate emphasis, for on it will rest the future of United Kingdom engineering. Implementation of the recommendations will dramatically affect all concerned with the "formation" of engineers. It will change the face of university engineering departments, their relationship with their universities and between them and the government.

Whereas engineering departments have too often become passengers in university development, many will now become minor growth points. Whereas in the past the UGC alone has exercised financial control over universities, now an "Engineering Authority" may also have some control over parts of universities' work. Universities' willingness to accept this control, the willingness of some engineering departments to support others better placed to satisfy Finniston's recommendations and the ability of those within engineering departments, and the willingness of individuals to enter engineering departments, will influence the long term impact of Finniston.

Much could be gained, but the problems are substantial. The report recommends a change in the emphasis of education and training for engineering. There will be a move away from a predominantly science orientated approach to a more professional and integrated approach. At the top, a two-tier qualification structure is to exist. Approximately 25 per cent of the present throughput of undergraduate engineers will work for an MEng degree to become "diploma" engineers. These

will be the "top notch" engineers.

MEng courses will include basic engineering practice and professional studies in engineering. They are to be shorter, less intensive, and perhaps more akin to much current undergraduate degree work. Those responsible for establishing the MEng courses will have much to learn from the "engineered" engineering courses established in seven universities in 1978. These, although not without their critics, have been successful in attracting a high proportion of the better qualified school leavers. There will now be more courses "fishing in the same pool".

Which universities will run the new courses? What type of staff are needed for this approach to engineering? Where will they be found? Where will the additional funds come from? Will industry accept the new approach and the greater involvement of academics in the practical training and development of engineers?

Little will be achieved if all university engineering departments mount new MEng type courses. Larger departments, with larger courses now attracting better quality students may have a greater claim. What therefore will happen to the small departments where the resources required to mount the new professionally oriented courses may not be available: the new courses may be considered appropriate for the high status engineering departments, mainly those with a strong research reputation. Interest in and commitment to research and the advancement of knowledge may not be the best background in which to train engineers for creative design and manufacturing jobs in industry. For the non-research oriented engineering students, newer departments concentrating on teaching and without substantial research commitments might be more appropriate and less distracting contexts in which to establish new courses.

If MEng courses are to be associated with the less able students, and are per-

haps to become the norm in some universities, how do we cater for those who wish to study engineering but not become professional engineers? It is essential that some of those going into financial management, personnel and other industrial professions have some knowledge and commitment to engineering. But many of these are the brighter students, so will these still be attracted to conventional engineering courses? If these are in some way devalued? Will these universities which continue with three-year engineering science type courses fail to get professional recognition? If so many of the present high status courses would not be recognized, and some universities would have to pursue educationally "unofficial" form of engineering education or run down their courses and thus lose good students to other subjects.

The staff required to design and run professionally oriented, integrated engineering courses are a rare breed. They must be academically well qualified with substantial and recent engineering achievements, but many staff now in university engineering departments have been there for a long time and lack recent professional achievements (other than research). Even now it is difficult to attract good staff to university engineering departments, so how will the new staff be recruited? It may be necessary to copy the medical schools, in which clinical staff are paid more and benefit from different terms and conditions of employment.

The development of a more clinical approach will involve improvements in the business side of courses, since most professional engineers work in a commercial environment and most engineering courses are weak on the practice of engineering in that context. This is engineering, not "management", and must be treated as such. Too few university academics will be capable of adequately integrating such a component into what until now have been largely analytically oriented, science type engineering courses.

A new breed of engineering academics, and a new approach to engineering education, will be necessary and, in practice, the use of Meccano (and the like) was an important formative experience influencing choice of university course and subsequent career. Many of the more committed applicants for university engineering places are, in fact, Meccano addicts. The loss of Meccano is therefore an ironic prospect to the dawn of the post-Finniston era of engineering training and education. Finniston is recommending a more "experiential" approach to engineering education. The new approach will be more like engineering in practice, involving learning by doing, with motivation through achievement. If this is to succeed then interest in engineering must be bred at an earlier stage, and in schools.

Those who have no interest in creating, understanding and analysing things are unlikely suddenly to develop such an interest on leaving school. The best engineers and best engineering students developed an interest in artefacts when young—the "Meccano influence". If Finniston now introduces a substantial "Meccano" effect—or as Barnes Wallis would have called it, a "heuristic" experience—in engineering education and training, much can be achieved.

Ray Wild

The author is director of the special engineering programme at Brunel University.

The Magic of Dance

Margot Fonteyn tells the enthralling story of the development of ballet and modern dance, from the Versailles of Louis XIV up to the extraordinary changes that have occurred during her own career. Lavishly illustrated. £11.75

Spy!

These stories of grand espionage are true—and more intriguing than fiction. Richard Deacon and Nigel West trace the careers of 120th century spies—some well-known, others only recently unmasked. £5.50

Spirit of Asia

The ancient cultural traditions of South-East Asia still survive today in the gamelan orchestras, dance-dramas and traditional crafts. Michael MacIntyre reveals the breathtaking beauty of this corner of the world in words and magnificent full-colour photographs. £15.50

The Songwriters

Tom Stace writes about the life and times of eight famous songwriters—from Leslie Stuart (*Life of Leguna*) to Tim Rice and Andrew Lloyd Webber (*Jesus Christ Superstar*). £5.00

The Master Game

Here are the games from the first three series of the immensely popular BBC TV chess tournament. They are introduced and analysed by Leonard Barden and Jeremy James, and the book includes the contestants' own comments. £2.50

The World of Rugby

John Reason and Carwyn James trace the development of Rugby Union around the world, from its birth at Rugby School up to the highly organised, sometimes violent sport we know today. £6.25

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Children's Books

Searching for genius that will sell

For publishers, as for other entrepreneurs, there are treacherous times. The time when the "institutional market" is withering at the edges. Production costs increase remorselessly. Inflation accounting calls for techniques not wholly alien to an industry that gained much of its prestige as a cottage one. It therefore seems somewhat less than prudent for a publisher's editor, safely exiled behind a rampart of success, to choose this moment to quit home comforts and make a fresh start.

This however is just what Julia MacRae, the managing director of Hamish Hamilton Children's Books, has done. Concerned that the administrative burdens of working in a large company were increasingly distracting her from the central job of editing, she last year set up her own firm, Julia MacRae Books.

Miss MacRae has been wise enough to see that cottages are not yet back in fashion for publishers and has established her imprint under the London roof of an American company, Franklin Watts Ltd. This has given her full editorial freedom, and at the same time has enabled her to find the capital for her first list and to bring into the new firm three of her colleagues from Hamish Hamilton.

In a policy statement at the launching of her first books a few weeks ago, Julia MacRae

stressed the laudable aims of her company: to publish fewer books per year than seems to be the wont of many firms these days, and to concentrate on the growing list of distinctive titles which is too often lost in today's call for increasing turnover and quickly shifting titles.

For all its laudability though, such a policy does not of itself produce works of genius and at least as far as children's books are concerned it does not bring Miss MacRae much nearer to solving a dilemma that is likely to get sharper in the next few years. Who is going to pay money for distinctiveness?

As it happens, no one has posed this question more graphically than Julia MacRae herself. In an address to a conference in 1975 (published by Ward Lock Educational in 1976) she said: "The gulf that exists between the philosopher-librarians who would only give children books 'of honesty, integrity and vision' and most of the children themselves, who have no mind for such things. Confronting her staff at Hamish Hamilton with a range of the firm's publications she had said a year or two before this: 'Tell me which of these books you are actually going to give to a real live child for Christmas'." The resolute painful silence had led to a determined effort to find books like Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar*, which might combine robust enjoyment with the high standards of creative skill.

Very Hungry Caterpillars do not exist in abundance, however, indeed most of Eric Carle's subsequent books have been deeply disappointing, and the first eight publications from Julia MacRae Books demonstrate something of the difficulty of getting the balance right between robustness and skill. If one looks, for instance, at what is nominally the best-seller in the list—*Alfie and the Mother Goose Book* (£4.95)—one finds a truly handsome folio edition of some 150 nursery rhymes. Every page opening has been planned with care, each of the crowding illustrations having the simplicity of those in a

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OPERA AND BALLET

COVENT GARDEN 8.30 10.00
LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
The Royal Ballet
Tonight: *The Four Seasons*
Tomorrow: *The Sleeping Beauty*
Friday: *The Sleeping Beauty*
Saturday: *The Sleeping Beauty*

LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET

COVENT GARDEN 8.30 10.00
LONDON FESTIVAL BALLET
Tonight: *The Sleeping Beauty*
Tomorrow: *The Sleeping Beauty*
Friday: *The Sleeping Beauty*
Saturday: *The Sleeping Beauty*

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA

COVENT GARDEN 8.30 10.00
ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

CONCERTS

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL 8.00 10.00
CONCERTS
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

THEATRES

ADOLPHUS 8.30 10.00
THEATRES
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL

THE WORLD'S GREATEST MUSICAL
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

TIMOTHY WEST

TIMOTHY WEST
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

BEECHAM

BEECHAM
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

APOLLO THEATRE

APOLLO THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

ARTS THEATRE

ARTS THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

ASTORIA CINE

ASTORIA CINE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

BOULEVARD THEATRE

BOULEVARD THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
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Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

COCHRANE THEATRE

COCHRANE THEATRE
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Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
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COTTON THEATRE

COTTON THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
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Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

ELIZABETH THEATRE

ELIZABETH THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
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Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

GLENDIA JACKSON

GLENDIA JACKSON
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
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Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

CONY THEATRE

CONY THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

CRITERION THEATRE

CRITERION THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

MONTHLY THEATRE

MONTHLY THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

LAST OF THE RED HOT

LAST OF THE RED HOT
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

WITTY, STIMULATING, ENTERTAINING

WITTY, STIMULATING, ENTERTAINING
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

SUCH A THING AS LOVE

SUCH A THING AS LOVE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

MIRIAM ATKIN

MIRIAM ATKIN
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
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FORTUNE THEATRE

FORTUNE THEATRE
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
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Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

DR FAUSTUS

DR FAUSTUS
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
Saturday: *The Barber of Seville*

THEATRES

KINGS HEAD 8.30 10.00
THEATRES
Tonight: *The Barber of Seville*
Tomorrow: *The Barber of Seville*
Friday: *The Barber of Seville*
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LYRIC THEATRE

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ARTS

a: in Leeds, London and Berlin

Leeds

Liggins

ve chosen to perform Nabucco, which has been in the repertoire of the Leeds Opera since 1964. At the time, before Verdi's opera was rediscovered, it was the only opera in the repertoire of the Leeds Opera. The opera is a masterpiece of Verdi's mature style, and it is a pity that it has been so long since it was performed in Leeds.

ng else it proves that opera on television is not as good as it used to be. The production at Covent Garden is a masterpiece of Verdi's mature style, and it is a pity that it has been so long since it was performed in Leeds.

no fear of the extravaganzas of Verdi's operas: the chandelier-like Nabucco at the end of the opera is a masterpiece of Verdi's mature style, and it is a pity that it has been so long since it was performed in Leeds.



Camillo Meghior as Nabucco (left), John Tranter as Zaccaria

glare of arc lamps visibly manoeuvred by technicians on top of lighting turrets which could double as watchtowers. Oddly, the famous "Va, pensiero" was not well sung by the other concerned numbers. But Mr Pimlott has an eye for a stage tableau, although his handling of movement is less assured.

Elgar Howarth, expert on contemporary music and adviser to the Grimthorpe Colliery Band, seemed on the surface a strange choice to take charge of this opera. Yet Nabucco needs a conductor who can double as bandmaster: few operas have more marches. The old choice became an inspired one. Mr Howarth realised the red-blooded vitality of this score. Verdi was out to respond to the Scala's 1841 commission and prove that he could write

as good an opera as anyone. It was raw, crude and immensely invigorating.

The Belgian baritone Camillo Meghior in the title role, making his company debut, was by far the most accomplished singer of the evening. He did not arrive on horse as Solera demanded, but instead astride a sea of dry ice. Even so he took command at once. The voice has a brown burnish to it, not always up to Verdi's legato but never lacking in attack. His Nabucco reflected the early Hollywood view of the Old Testament with gestures that would not have shamed a Wolfie and wild eyes suggesting that it would take less than a thunderbolt to bring on madness. John Tranter's Zaccaria, so often played as a rabble-rouser, was contrastingly restrained and delicately sung.

So it was an evening in which the honours went to conductor, orchestra and chorus, although in Steven Pimlott's ENON have a producer to watch, especially if there is someone to lay a restraining hand on him.

Adrian Martin was a pleasing, light-voiced Ismaele, surely one of the least rewarding tenor roles Verdi composed.

None of the women rose above the mediocre. Milla Andrew's Abigaille was as extravagant in gesture as her presumed father Nabucco, rather like Anna Schlemm on an uninhibited evening, but the voice reacted indifferently to Verdi's demands and the wistful "Anch'io dischiuso" went for little. Glyndebourne's 1977 prize-winner, Helena Walker, made a pretty but pallid Fenena; she will surely improve. The Anna was inadequate.

It was an evening in which the honours went to conductor, orchestra and chorus, although in Steven Pimlott's ENON have a producer to watch, especially if there is someone to lay a restraining hand on him.



Sparkling subtlety

The Rake's Progress

Covent Garden

Stanley Sadie

The Rake's Progress has always been something of an enigmatic opera, above all because of the way Stravinsky plays cat-and-mouse with his audience: teasing much of the time, but with the seriousness of the game always apt to show through. Yet it does not seem to be a troublesome work to produce; I do not think I have ever seen a staging of it that did not find a way of capitalizing on the brilliance of the austere libretto and indeed on the contradictions within the score itself.

It is really an opera for a house of modest size, but the new Covent Garden production

first given last June, when this paper was in the process of being written, is remarkably successful. Its underlying theme, an identity between Auden and Rakewell, made manifest in Tom's pose in his soliloquy at the beginning of Act II, seems fairly obvious. Certainly the juxtaposition of texts in the programme establishes little, for the analogy between Auden's one-time creed of self-knowledge and self-fulfilment and Tom's fecklessness and self-delusion is at best slender. Elijah Moshinsky's staging is expert: busy, alive, swift-moving, sharp in atmosphere.

The stage is sparsely set: Timothy O'Brien and Iazzena Firch put the opera on a plain like Tom's inverted T which, with flats from the wings, some doorways and a drop curtain, does all that is needed. Their doorways are classical, but for their costumes they do not go back to Hogarth, rather to the mid-nineteenth century. In principle this should not work; but, with a score that makes a point of cutting across strict notions of period integrity, it does, even if one jibs at hearing people in Dickensian garb uttering the sentiments of a century before.

Musically it is first-rate. Colin Davis conducted before; now it is Maurice Strakos, who without sacrificing crispness or precision emphasises the fluidity and above all the richness of colour of the score. He paces it steadily but perceptively, though perhaps the over-extended Bedlam scene might profitably go more speedily.

Robert Tear is a magnificent Tom, clear and subtle in delivery, shading the sound beautifully and suggestively in conveying his dissolution. The new Anne is Felicity Lott, done with charm and spirit, a hint of sensuousness in the phrasing that happily warms Stravinsky's chill, especially in the ringing tone at, for example, "I'll go, I'll go to him." Nick Shadow is now sung by Donald McIntyre, another resourceful performance with plenty of ripe, dark tone and insinuating nuance. Patricia Ruanne makes a wittily shrewish, rather than a Baba and Robert Lloyd a resonant Trulove.

Luciano Berio

Queen Elizabeth Hall

Paul Griffiths

Since 1958 Luciano Berio has been fathering a series of solo pieces, the Sequenza siblings. There are now nine of them, but the baby of the family, for percussion, is not yet ready for outings, so there were eight to be introduced in turn during Monday night's festive celebration held under the auspices of the London Music Digest. Berio himself was present to keep a paternal eye on his offspring, and most of them were in the care of the virtuoso musicians for whom they were created.

The oldest is for the flute, now quite an elegant young man, but often dreamy or puz-

zled in expression. Next came a harp solo, unpredictable as any 17-year-old, rippling and graceful but given to fits of spiteful bad temper which quite belie her appearance, but none of this bothered her 14-year-old sister, the only vocalist of the family who flamboyantly parades the special attributes of song and speech.

The fourth, fifth and sixth members are all in their early teens too, but utterly different in character: the athlete at the piano, the clown at the trombone, the bookish child who worries at trembling chords on the viola. A little younger, the seventh is a bright and gambolling around a single oboe note. The eighth is a difficult infant, at first going on and on with regular insistence, then running off in playful pirouettes, but finally settling into ominous, quiet repetitions.

This last, longest of the set, made an upbeat finale in a brilliant performance by Carlo Chiarappa, who weakened the memories of Bartók and Paganini and Corelli that lie in what is an aural portrait of the violin. But there was delight in the more familiar items: in the snappy attacks and luminous resonances of Katia Labèque at the piano, in the pure tone and intelligent phrasing of the flautist Alain Marion, in the wit of Heinz Holliger's oboe and the humour of Stuart Dempster's trombone, the sheer abundant virtuosity of Cathy Berberian, Francis Pierre and Walter Trampler in their own fulsome testimonials. It was an all-star evening.

Metamorphoses

Coliseum

John Percival

Geoffrey Cauley's *Metamorphoses*, given its first performance by Festival Ballet at the Coliseum on Monday, is the first new work commissioned by John Field since becoming director. He has turned to a choreographer who can be relied on to provide a striking stage picture (the designs are his own) and to make the dancers look good. The setting, as sparse and geometrical as Cauley generally prefers, is a ballet rehearsal room. In it at curtain-rise Patricia Ruanne stands with her back to the audience, a towel over one shoulder. Her shaded, silvered thighs cleverly make her look not naked but like a drawing of a nude. Her look of physical vulnerability is contrasted with the elegance of the other women who enter next, walking tall in floor-length skirts.

We are to imagine Ruanne, I suppose, tormenting herself because her body will not achieve impossibly high ideals. But Matz Skoog's arrival in a beam of light cheers her up for a while. Some other male dancers come in and play with a ball (I could not see the point of this); another woman, Caroline Humphson, appears to pose a threat to Ruanne's position. The last third of the ballet is almost a straight repeat of the first third, but with the



Patricia Ruanne

differences implied by the title: the most noticeable being that this time round she finds Skoog a disappointment and lets him go off again. I almost forgot to mention that a chunk of scenery, like a suspended box, twice descends to hide some of the cast and rises again after a while. It must mean something; but what?

Cauley seems to have invented ballet's equivalent of the old academic puzzle picture, without which no painting exhibition was once complete. It

will serve as a talking point and, because he knows how much a dancer can imply by sheer personality and projection, he gets away with it.

What you must not expect is anything in the way of memorable movement, nor any close connexion with Richard Strauss's music than in mood. I was glad that *Etudes*, a much more cheerful look at a dancer's life and work, was also on the bill, or we might all have come away wondering why they bother to keep trying.

BSO/Dutoit

Festival Hall

Max Harrison

Oboron's magic horn sounded quite enchantingly in Weber's overture on Monday night. This nearly immaculate performance by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra under Charles Dutoit seemed an auspicious start to their concert, and well-balanced wind chords and live string phrases were only some of the pleasures.

Oddly enough, the orchestra appeared considerably less happy in Schumann's Piano Concerto. This is not the place to go into the question of Schu-

mann's orchestration as against that of the three virtuosos of that art who occupied the rest of the programme, but the Bournemouth sound was here less consistent and integrated.

Mr Dutoit did some good things, however, such as his shaping of the cello melody in the slow movement, and there were some nicely-turned oboe and clarinet solo phrases. The pianist, Andreas Schiff, was fluent, sensitive, and in the finale energetic, but as yet he is apparently without any individual thoughts to offer on this familiar work.

The concert was divided into German and French halves, the latter consisting of two Ravel works flanking one by Debussy. First after the interval came Ravel's *Valses nobles et senti-*

mentales, and these received a performance which had something of the "electric shivers and feline suppleness" that Roland Manuel long since remarked in them. Often such music is played in a lush, even over-heated manner, but here it was not.

Debussy's music is, of course, more elusive than that of Ravel, and the *Prelude à l'après-midi d'un faune* was not quite as successful. Again there was some fine individual playing from the woodwind and the strings had an aptly sensuous sheen. Yet Mr Dutoit did not altogether conjure up the music's hazy warmth, and often it was too static. Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé Suite No 2*, however, positively scintillated, and was immediately enjoyable.

Adam proves himself as a producer

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Magdalena Hajossyova, Eberhard Buchner

during the roccoco period, "doppio le parole". "Prima le parole", counters his friend and collaborator the poet, "doppio la musica". Not very much else, when you get right down to it, happens. Making all that high-class chat interesting for two uninterrupted hours requires forces of substantially more than average talent.

All in all, this new production stands up to the challenge, and on the opening night the audience gave Theo Adam, one of its favourites anyway, an ovation which visibly warmed his heart. In addition

to operatic and concert appearances, a succession of television programmes, in which he presents musical colleagues from all over the world as his guests and performing partners, has made Theo Adam something of an East German institution.

In *Capriccio* he has had luck in the selection of his artistic collaborators—at least in those involved on the opening night, for this production has dual casting in all important roles. Oskar Suitner conducted this first premiere, with Peter Schreier succeeding him for the second one. Mr Suitner shines

other men" snaps Gladys Ubu, and Fred promptly makes off to the sixteenth-century by lift.

That gets his career off to one good line, and one good stage effect; and there are others worth mentioning—such as a gallant toast taken with eye-droppers, the sight of Claire Davenport's heftily hooped skirt Queen Gladys eavesdropping from behind a wizen tree which she carried on for the purpose, and one or two genuine deep-groan puns ("Where has this runner been?" "I'm not a runner been, I'm a messenger.")

But on the whole, the first production of the exiled Open Space Theatre amounts to a misalliance of talents. Jarry's play may need pointing up, but the way to do it is not to convert a recognisable French type like Capote's Bordure into a new soldier of fortune called Captain Fumbling Grope who relates to nothing outside show business.

Mr Milligan has had his wicked way with the script, and his occasional flashes of inspired lunacy do not make up for the dead weight of deliberately dreadful gags and the lack of coherent narrative. To work at all, the script needs the fixing impetus of a Goon show, rather than the de-

liberate pace of Marowitz's production, where each isolated effect is admirably held up for the laughs that come too seldom. Clumsily split between the full stage and the curtained forestage, the action is too often concentrated at the centre, leaving actors to make long exits during which they repeatedly drop out of character.

The pace of the show may owe something to Charlie Drake's own taste in comic timing: like that of an exhausted boxer who periodically pulls himself together to deliver a vicious swipe. On his first bowler-hatted appearance, dejectedly heaving himself up through a trapdoor and then stamping on the family cat, the effect is very funny. But after a few ridiculous, you are left feeling that this apathetic, stone-faced clown is not the likeliest embodiment of voracious human greed.

The show is rich in farcical props, including mobile doors, a reversible tragic-comic mask, a court that rises in the air, and a bicycle throne. They are like a box of fireworks, burnt out after being used once; and spectators lacking other amusement will feel grateful to the three Central School designers, Jeda Barford, Charlotte Humphson and Kim Kelly.

Ubu

Jeanetta Cochrane

Irving Wardle

As the first word uttered on the Cochrane stage is "Blimey" rather than the expletive which is all most people remember of Ubu, it is clear that this Spike Milligan-Charlie Drake-Charles Marowitz product is going to have as much to do with Jarry as Milligan's *Obolomav* had to do with Gocharov.

However, there are overwhelming arguments in favour of bringing this old monster up to date: and I note that, besides the Cochrane show, a Midland-based group called Raging Id are touring a sequel called *Ubu in Gloucestershire* featuring Amin and Bokassa among other strong Ubu-esque candidates. In the Milligan version, Ubu starts off as a Dagenham shop steward to which Mr Drake adds a one-finger Hitler moustache after ascending the throne of Poland.

But there, sad to say, topical interest dries up. We get an opening scene in Fred Ubu's family's attic with a moronic daughter glued to the television display card, and then it is off to Milliganland. "Why can't you be King of Poland like

Some of the reviews on this page are reprinted from yesterday's later editions



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By Our Racing Correspondent

2.9 Remigo. 2.35 Snowtown Boy. 3.5 Sweeping Along. 3.35 Mount-
vers. 4.10 Foxworthy. 4.40 Tomblor.

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THE TIMES

GO EAST WITHOUT GOING WEST.



A 20 hour flight to the Far East can put years on you. It's not easy, after all, to do anything in an airline seat but doze. And if the food and service has been as unremarkable as your rest, you are likely to arrive feeling considerably the worse for wear.

Fortunately, from April 2 there is a more civilised way of flying to the Orient.

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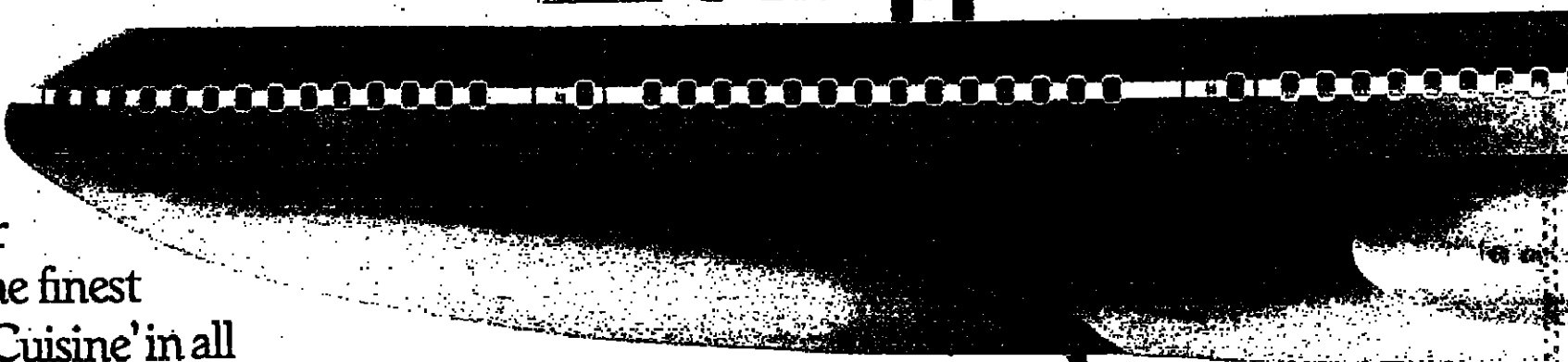
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Britain's defensive weakness

Mr Francis Pym will today unveil his first Defence White Paper to a nation which, in the shadow of the Afghan affair, is probably more concerned by the subject than at any time during the decade that has passed. Reflecting this, it will be by Whitehall standards, a bumper issue, with a supplementary full of statistics to detail the military balance and Britain's contribution to it.

It will confirm, as already announced, a three per cent rise in defence spending during 1980-81, with a defence budget at current prices of more than £10,600m. But there will be no announcement of what will replace the Challenger tank—a Europeanized version of the Shtr-2 which was originally designed for the Shah: no disclosure of the bases likely to be chosen for American ground-launched cruise missiles in the country; and no announcement of the Armed Forces pay rise which fell due on April 1.

These decisions have still to be made. More important, however, is the question of the White Paper will answer those who argue from time to time that Britain's defence profile does not stick out far enough in the right places. The weakness of Britain's defence policy is in a sense its strength. It is not that we do too little, but that we are too much. This is largely an accident of our history and geography rather than the product of any defence philosophy. Indeed the real weakness is perhaps that our defence philosophy is too blurred or that we do not apply it as positively as we should. By trying to cover too many contingencies and up to covering none of them to everyone's satisfaction—except in our training and discipline, whose standards compare well with those of any other country in the world.

Britain's forces are admirably balanced, and so is our contribution to Nato. We contribute a core to the alliance's Northern Army Group in West Germany; a navy which is still the largest in Western Europe; an air force which has the largest air force in Nato. The Royal Marines have a commitment to the defence of Nato's Northern Flank in wartime—and, most recently, we support the only Nato committed strategic deterrent outside the direct control of the United States president.

On top of this Britain has 13,000 soldiers tied down in Northern Ireland, and smaller pockets scattered round the world in Belize, Cyprus, Gibraltar and Hong Kong, whose government now pays the lion's share of the costs.

With Britain's economy in, at the least, an uncertain condition, one is forced to question how long the Government or its successor will be able to sustain all the present effort in defence. This is not an argument for spending less—it is rather an argument for once more examining the priorities in the defence budget and questioning whether Britain should not concentrate its limited resources on a more limited number of areas.

There are, of course, other alternatives, under which for example Nato might shoulder some of the costs of the strategic infrastructure through the alliance's infrastructure fund. The last Defence Review conducted by the Labour Government in 1974-75 degenerated into the usual conflict between the Right and a Left whose attitude to defence has remained sadly negative. There remains a case for another, more positive review of the defence needs in Britain which might ensure that we have our priorities right and that our forces have the best equipment available to perform the jobs which matter most.

Henry Stanhope
Defence Correspondent

Michael Shanks on a possible solution to the present Anglo-French fracas.

The EEC squabble: why Whitehall must change its attitude

'It is clear that Britain is not going to get her way except as part of a package deal'

The debate on Britain's EEC budget contribution has degenerated into that most depressing of European spectacles, an Anglo-French squabble. It is therefore extremely important that the breathing space afforded by the postponement of the March summit be used by the other EEC members and the European Commission to bring some common sense into the cross-Channel fracas. It is clear that in both the United Kingdom and French governments there is now a desire to get them off the hook.

To date the argument has gone something like this: France: How can we take you seriously? You sought entry three times in the 1960s and early 1970s, knowing full well the rules of the Community you were trying to join. After joining in 1973, you had second thoughts and we took the unprecedented step of allowing you to renegotiate the terms. You expressed yourselves well satisfied with the result in 1975. Now you want to renegotiate all over again. Really, we have more important things to attend to.

Britain: Yes, but things have changed in ways none of us could have predicted. Nobody ever envisaged a situation in which one of its poorest members would become the biggest contributor to the budget. You know we expressed our fears about the growth of spending on the Common Agricultural Policy when we joined, and you and the other member-states went on record as saying that if reasonable solutions would have to be found.

France: What you are invoking is the principle of *retour*—the principle that everybody gets out what he puts in. You know very well the Community has rejected

that principle on various occasions. Britain: We are only seeking parity with you, who are a much richer country than we are. The cases you are talking about concerned a time when the richest member-country, West Germany, was the biggest budget contributor. It is reasonable that the Community should transfer resources from richer to poorer, but not the other way.

France: If you are poorer than us, and unable to compete in the EEC, it's entirely your own fault. You should work harder and strike less. In terms of natural resources you're better off than any of us, because you have your own oil. If you want us to help you, why aren't you ready to help us by giving us preferential access to your oil?

Britain: You are introducing a complete red herring into the discussion. We're talking about the budget and correcting a manifest injustice. You know perfectly well this whole issue has arisen simply because the CAP for which we pay and from which you benefit, has got out of control and is swallowing up far more of the Community's resources than was ever intended.

France: Yes, but you didn't complain about that when you were getting an artificial subsidy from the green pound, did you? You only want the rules changed when it suits you.

Britain: Typical French hypocrisy! Who is breaking the rules of the Community today? Not us, but you! Why are you persisting in illegally blocking sales of our lambs in France?

France: Once again, you want us to help you but you offer nothing in return. You know we have a problem on lamb, because it is excluded from the list of protected products in the CAP. If you were

prepared to meet us on that, instead of sticking rigidly to the letter of the law, we might be more sympathetic to your problems. And so it goes on. How is this sterile and unending squabble to be resolved? It is clear that Britain is not going to get her way except as part of a package deal. We have to be prepared to buy off the French lamb interests by agreeing to some (preferably temporary) subsidy in return for the lifting of the ban on British lamb exports to France. We have to be prepared to discuss some (probably largely cosmetic) modifications to our North Sea policy to make it more commensurate with the European Monetary System (EMS); and we should try to settle the continuing deadlock over an EEC fisheries policy.

These are the positive cards we could play, as well as the negative one of threatening to block all EEC business until our grievances are met. If the discussion can be moved into these channels, in which EEC funds can be channelled in our direction without appearing to do too much violence to the Community's budgetary conventions. If we do decide to join the EMS, we should immediately qualify for the same kind of aid as was given to Italy and Ireland when they joined. This should be relatively uncontroversial. Projects like the Channel Tunnel, and a possible gas pipeline from the North Sea fields to France and to Ireland, would equally readily attract Community funds while demonstrating Britain's attachment to Europe.

There are also a number of areas where the Community institutions could fill some of the gaps left by the cutback in public spending in the United Kingdom as Mr Nigel Lawson has (somewhat belatedly) recognized.

A recent editorial in *The Guardian* lamented the fact that the United Kingdom joined the European Community at a time when the original impetus for integration was running out of steam. What everybody forgets is that this was perfectly well recognized at the time, in late 1972, and that it was also recognized at the time that the further progress of such integration would not necessarily work to the advantage of the United Kingdom or Ireland (though Ireland in fact has done much better in Europe than most people anticipated).

The whole dimension of Community policy was put in place to deal with exactly this situation. Programmes to improve the quality of European life, through active policies of social reform, environmental and consumer protection formed

Bernard Levin

Adelaide, as an Englishman sees her

Adelaide I can now reveal that the Englishman I wrote about yesterday, who caused much indignation in this remorselessly respectable city by saying that Adelaide women have no style (the line was even incorporated in the topical references added to a production of a play by Goldoni's contemporary and rival, Carlo Gozzi, and was greeted with the traditional groan used by pantomime audiences to signal the arrival of the villain) was the Director of the Festival, Christopher Hunt, or rather, the ex-director, for Mr Hunt will not be returning to present a second one.

Unemployed he may be, but he is not in the least, he is in the local television station by calmly telling Adelaide that she is a village inhabited by wax dummies ruled by a few figure-heads, that the atmosphere is provincial, that narrow, conservative attitudes, which are dear to the arts, abound, that this is a society designed to perpetuate the mediocre and to obstruct the experimental and the new, that when he came to Adelaide he found tremendous opportunities for innovation but speedily discovered that the forces preventing those opportunities being taken are strong enough (and it seems, no less willing) to ensure that nothing interesting happens, and for good measure, that the Adelaide Symphony Orchestra plays out of tune. In the circumstances, it is perhaps not altogether surprising that Mr Hunt's first Adelaide Festival is also to be his last.

I am myself, as my readers

well know, a man who shuns controversy, and I therefore have no intention of taking Sides (Jonathan Cape, £6.50) for or against Mr Hunt's views, though I could hardly help noticing that on the morning after my arrival, I took part in a public discussion of festivals in general, and innocently remarked that it was important for festival directors to have a reasonably long tenure, my words were greeted by what I can only describe as wry applause.

Of course, there never was a festival yet that was not awash with conspiracy, outrage, faction, protest and bickering, and I see no reason why Adelaide should be exempt from this truth. It must, after all, be the very last city on earth in which the paradox is a familiar sight, and the paradox is not normally regarded as a symbol of revolution, even in the arts. Anyway, Mr Hunt has put together a festival that in general, and in the details, is every bit the pattern of a eclectic ones like Edinburgh rather than the more precisely focused models such as Salzburg, and the range is certainly wide enough to satisfy, at least in the details, everyone except the man who wrote to the local paper with the most arcane complaint ever levelled at a festival, viz, that too few of the items in it were suitable for heterosexuals.

The strength of the Adelaide Festival lies in its setting, this may sound as eccentric as the complaint of the gentleman in the previous paragraph, but the unique force of the Festival lies in its setting. It is designed in what looks like a huge angular white

cheeses, the larger with a wedge taken out of the middle, and both set in an ample and colourful plaza alive with grass, paths, children's playgrounds, stalls, booths, pop-groups, murals of fish, exhibitions, puppets, conjurers, poets and a gloomy figure, apparently intent upon assuring passers-by that it would be as well to repent, for the end is nigh. One of the stalls sells tin cans full of dust and cobwebs for making the cheapest and rawest wine look like a precious vintage bottle, another provides what may well be the best popcorn in the world, from another you can hire bicycles, though nothing in the centre of Adelaide is far enough from anything else to warrant the extravagance.

The result, however, is that the place is possessed of a truly spontaneous air of festivity, much enhanced by the army of banners with which the streets of the city centre have been decorated, all 700 of which were designed and made by volunteers to whom the materials were distributed free on application, one of Mr Hunt's pleasantest notions. The banner outside the front door of the State Parliament has been decorated, all 700 of which were designed and made by volunteers to whom the materials were distributed free on application, one of Mr Hunt's pleasantest notions.

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The Festival Centre was entrusted to a local firm of architects, Bassall and Partners, who had never built a theatre before, and in building three in this centre fully justified the city's trust. The dazzling whiteness of the exterior is contrasted with the brown-tinted glass that separates the sloping shell from the ground like a row of teeth, and the main auditorium, a 2,000-seater that can be used as opera-house, theatre or concert-hall (though for concerts they idiosyncratically put the orchestra not in the pit but on the stage, where the players are stifled behind a rigid proscenium—for all I heard of the Warsaw Philharmonic's woodland they might as well have stayed at home) is finished in warm, dark wood, the shape offering a hint of our Festival Hall and of Chichester. The seats are faultlessly sprung, and even allow a visitor to bring his knees with him, a phenomenon sufficiently rare these days to be worth remarking. 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most significant success of the Government has had in the steel industry since it took office is a success achieved by a resolute refusal to accept its significance lies in the fact. The central political issue in the strike was a Government which had proclaimed its devotion to the philosophy of the cash limit, and on that in its appeal to the electorate, would be able to say what it had said when it was challenged. This philosophy was very much in evidence both of the strikers and some of their backers in our movement. Mr. Sirs expressed it forthrightly to tempt Lord Denning to say that the action was, not a trade dispute at all, but that the Government stand by what it had

important to be clear just a few general lessons can be drawn from this, and what can be learned. In 1974 there has been a convention would be that in British political life a Government could not afford to challenge the union. The steel strike is some way towards restoring the balance. But the 1974 election should not be interpreted on the right side as a crude victory over industrial machismo. The 1974 election has shown the industry and the unions have been too great for

men widely suspected that the tapping is now practised on a much more extensive scale than it was at the time of the comprehensive inquiry by the Birkett Committee in 1956. The serious crime has increased, terrorism and other threats to security are more numerous, and the technology of intercepting telephone calls has improved. So both the need and the capacity for interception, or at least lessening of its effectiveness, are greater. But the Paper published yesterday is reassuring in terms of methods and procedures. The amount of telephone tapping certainly increased in 1957. The Home Secretary approved 411 warrants last year, compared with 129 in 1956, but the number approved by the Home Secretary for five years is 1,543. The State or Security Service has fifty-six. But not an extravagant number in all the circumstances, much less than many had suspected. One feels still more confidence in the judgment if these figures are broken down into interceptions from the police, Customs and Excise, and the Security Service; and it is hard

to believe that effective operations would thereby have been jeopardized.

A number of fears should be removed by the procedures outlined in the White Paper. "As a general rule", it states, "each warrant names only one person and one address or telephone number". In other words, there are no general approvals for people in a particular category. There is a time limit of two months on each warrant, with the period for which it can be renewed being specified for each category. In no instance is it unreasonably long. The rules as laid down should also provide sufficient reassurance that neither a copy of a tape nor a transcript is ever made available to anybody but the organization for whom the warrant has been granted. The one point on which the Government's information could be vulnerable would be how many warrants are renewed. It may not be necessary to give precise figures so long as it is apparent whether a high proportion of warrants are renewals of long duration. That information could hardly be of assistance to criminals and terrorists.

Altogether, though, the Home Secretary was justified in

Office has always been to the point of evasion of its problems. Instead of merely baring its chest it until outside investigating and there has been a succession of them—prize a horrors of declining standards of service. Until very it has regarded users' initiatives such as the Post Users' National Council as rather than as potential with whom to share a cause.

One of the trouble is that the postal service is attempting to higher standards of other postal service in the world. Its service is more extensive and aims to be taking the country as a whole, rather elsewhere. In spite of recent increases its 1980-81 compare fairly well with it from these high standards that performance has been. The question now is whether the standards will have dropped further or whether they maintained either by some who include the the as well as individuals, pay, or by nationalization.

The first requirement is for a dialogue with customers. We must know what they can

reasonably expect for their money. It seems incredible that regular and detailed performance figures are not being published already. Financial controls, given that the service is a statutory monopoly and that prices can be manipulated at will, are not enough.

Next there will have to be a radical change in the willingness of postal managers and staff to work together. One of the most salutary lessons to be learned from the Monopolies Commission's criticisms is that they have all been made before. The same recurrent mistakes have emerged both from the Hardman Committee in 1951 and the Carter Review Committee in 1977. These were that management and unions should agree on a comprehensive programme of productivity measures involving work measurement, rearrangement of working practices, reduction of excessive overtime and introduction of local productivity agreements, and that mechanization should be accelerated. The fact that very little improvement followed indicates the ability of the postal business to resist change. In the face of such apathy, mere customers stand little chance of

Dr. R. Bailey and others -
the subject of derelict land
has recently been raised in
Lunenburg, may we draw to the
attention of your readers two
that we are hoping to get
in the Local Government
and Land (No 2) Bill and
to some way to alleviating
the problem.

First concerns an amendment
to the Bill. As proposed
the present part X will give
of State the power to
public body to dispose of
vacant land. This is clearly
state: the public body com-
munity will make representa-
the Secretary of State, as it
to do, claiming that the
though vacant, is desperately
in five or ten years' time and
must be disposed of. In
the Secretary of State
to the Bill and the land
in an article.

Amendment therefore gives
to the Secretary of State the power in
order to direct the public
to take all possible steps to
that in the interim period
is put to beneficial com-
use, either by themselves
leasing leased or licensed to
others, rather than being left

second amendment concerns
control. At present
determining the net amount

to planning control, developers often try to usurp the function of local planning authorities by demolishing existing buildings before applying for planning permission to redevelop. The result is that the planning authority must either consent to a redevelopment proposal that may be totally inappropriate, or, by refusing consent, see the site remains vacant for years.

Our amendment therefore, seeks to avoid this by making demolition subject to planning consent.

May we ask your readers both to urge the Government to accept these proposals and to send to us any examples of the practice of demolishing buildings in advance of planning permission (or inquiries) as described above.

Yours sincerely,
RON BAILLY,
MAY EVANS,
HUGH LANNING,
DAVID HALL,
Housing Emergency Office,
157 Waterloo Road, SE1.

Drugs for mentally ill

From Dr E. Moran

Sir, In recent years great strides have been made in improving the services for the mentally ill. This has been made possible by the use of modern treatments especially

From Dr E. Moran
Sir, In recent years great strides have been made in improving the services for the mentally ill. This has been made possible by the use of modern treatments especially

From Lord Brockway and others
Sir, William of the Royal Air Force
William of the Royal Air Force
is not appreciated that it is the World
Disarmament Campaign which
organising the national convention
on April 12 to which the advertisement
reproducing Lord Mumbourne's
speech relates (*The Times*, page 9,
March 28). This campaign is
supported by some 170 different
organisations which while they
differ on the methods of achieving
disarmament they are all united
in seeking to implement the
policy set out in the Final Document
of the Special Session of the
UN General Assembly on Disarmament
in May, June, 1978.

The Campaign is being launched at the convention in the Centre Hall, Westminster, under the chairmanship of Lord Gorton, former Lord Chancellor, its purpose is to mobilise support for the policies which 149 governments unanimously agreed in this final document of the conference.

That policy was to achieve, by appropriate stages, the general and complete disarmament of all nations under strict and effective international control, together with the elimination of all weapons of mass destruction, and the resources so released to world development, that is to say, to the ending of world poverty and for the promotion of social justice and human well-being in all countries, developed and developing.

The present British Government has committed itself to the achievement of this policy as the "ultimate objective" of our campaign for disarmament, and we are now working towards achieving this before nuclear war takes place.

The final document of the special session urges that this objective

From Lord Ashby, FRS
Sir, You write in your leaded
(March 29) that the report on
Lead and Health "will not satisfy
either side".
I regret Scientific research is not
done to satisfy pressure groups;
it is done to ascertain the truth so
far as that is possible. When the
public take sides on a highly
emotive issue, truth is the first
casualty. Thanks to the courage of
Professor Lawther and other scien-
tific workers, willing to publish the
truth as they see it, the Govern-
ment now knows more about lead
and health than it ever has before.

The thanks these scientific
workers get for telling the truth is
to be branded as "complacent",
to be accused of making a "cover-
up", of producing a "political
document" and (The Times, March
31) of "defending themselves from
accusations". If this is the way
scientific work is an outmoded
concept, it is a poor prospect for
Britain.

Careful work published by the Department of the Environment, the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, and now the Medical Research Council, demonstrates (i) that lead levels in some places are too close to danger level to be

From Mr F. R. D. Poveley
Sir, I was most sorry to see that your editorial of March 15 and accompanying article implied that I had been "bought" by the Southern and East Conservative Association, for nothing could be further from the truth.

When we were first confronted with the task of finding a successor to Sir Stephen MacAdden, I resolved then that any person who asked to be considered whom we should have as a candidate would get short shrift. In the event nobody, absolutely nobody at any level in the Conservative Party, whether in Parliament, Central Office or Area, attempted to influence our choice of candidate, in any way whatsoever.

Teddy Taylor was our choice, and was chosen from among some 320 applicants. Firstly, a selection committee of twelve prepared a short-list of twenty-three applicants (which included all local candidates) who were interviewed over a full weekend. Of these, six were interviewed the following week by the larger Finance and General Purposes Committee, who chose three applicants to be interviewed by the full Executive Committee. Mr Taylor was chosen and then

From Sir Jack Longland
Sir, Recent letters to *The Times*
and the interview (March 24) with
the only surviving member of the
1921 expedition have both
obscured the apparent fact that not
one but two bodies were found by
various Chinese expeditions on the
north side of Everest, the only
route permitted and attempted
before the war.

There is no question that the
body discovered by Charles Warren
in 1935, and apparently rediscovered
by a Chinese party near the much
frequented Camp III at 21,000 feet,
was that of the solitary climber
Maurice Wilson who died near there
in 1934. But that was found not
on the mountain at all, but on its upper
glacier approaches. As both Warren
and the Chinese party were possibly
possibly he the body of either
Mallory or Irvine.

The new factor is the report that a Chinese climber, now dead, came across a body on the north face of Everest itself, at well over 26,000 feet, and in the direct fall-line some 500 feet below the ice axe found by Wynn Harris during our 1933 expedition. Nearly all climbers agree that the ice axe, lying on rock slabs just below the great east ridge, marks the spot from which Mallory and Irvine began a fatal fall. Of living English climbers, only Noel Odell, Peter Lloyd and I know that part

From Professor J. W. Bruce:

Sir, Mr Fred Silvester, MP, makes some amazing statements in his article on human rights (March 17). Twice he calls the European Convention on Human Rights "anti-democratic" and "anti-European" and "anti-progressive". According to him "the whole development has occurred without any form of democratic approval"—all member states of the Council of Europe which ratified the Convention have agreed to comply with their constitutional requirements. It is incorrect that the Convention depends on "self-appointed or nominated bodies"—neither the members of the European Commission nor the judges of the European Court of Human Rights are self-appointed. It is incorrect to say that "any citizen, via the commission, may appeal to the court".

That the right of property was "drafted at a time of a Labour government in Britain" is irrelevant, as 15 countries adopted the Additional Protocol, embodying that right; Britain's approval was given

From Miss Annie Manuel

Sir, Mr K. P. Frampton is treading dangerous ground in his letter of March 24, in suggesting that a select committee on "cults" be set up.

His use of the word "cult" implies a prejudice as cult has come to have a derisory meaning, i.e. that of something obnoxious, esoteric and obscurantist. Many of the so-called cults, although unfamiliar, give a new slant to spirituality and are sane, rational new religions.

In free society new religions should be allowed to grow and we cannot develop into a society where only certain approved religions, philosophies or thoughts are given legal status while the others are denied these privileges. If distinctions are to be drawn between religions, some being approved, others not, then how are these distinctions to be made and by whom?

The well-being of our country depends on the widest religious tolerance. Mr Frampton's suggested

From Mr C. G. E. Berry

Sir, As you rightly point out (leading article, March 26), the assassination of the Archbishop of San Salvador, Mgr Oscar Romero, will not of itself reduce the internal pressures for the much-needed massive reform of the Salvadoran economic and political structure. However, one should not underestimate the effect of the tactic of selectively picking-off leading moderate or left-wing figures that has frequently been adopted by the military in various countries, in Central America.

In Nicaragua, the murder of Chamorro, one of the principal opponents of the Somoza régime, to some extent provoked an intensification of the left's armed struggle, leading to civil war and the Sandinista's final victory in that country.

Mr Romero's death may lead to an even bloodier dénouement in El Salvador. On the other hand, in Guatemala similar right-wing tactics of discriminately murdering leading centre and left-wing figures, accompanied by indiscriminate but less publicised mass slaughter, has deprived the opposition of many of its internationally better-known spokesmen. The result has been that the intense and bloody struggle there is probably at least as bitter as that in El Salvador—has received much less international attention because of the disappearance of the more articulate participants in it.

Who is so fervently hopes that Mr Romero's murder will not hasten a fratricidal civil war in El Salvador, neither must the other possible outcome be allowed. The international community must not be permitted to forget the plight of the majority in El Salvador now that one of its most effective spokesmen has been silenced. The pressure of international public opinion has been an effective force in bringing reforms in El Salvador—such pressure must be maintained if Mr Romero's death is not to have been in vain.

Yours faithfully,
C. G. E. BERRY,
2 Waverley Avenue,
Rye, Sussex,
BN26 9NR, Wokingham,
Berkshire.

March 27.

From Mrs Jane Cooper
Sir, It was with relief that I read
Mr Bradley's letter (March 27) on
divorce legislation.

The articles and letters published by you so far on this subject seem to have failed to recognize the impossibility of trying to use the legal system to resolve emotional difficulties. I would suggest that this greatly contributes to the current dissatisfaction with divorce law.

I would be interested to know the results of any research into the number of solicitors who give serious consideration with their clients to conciliation, as envisaged in the Divorce Reform Act. In my experience it is a very small percentage.

Whether non-fault divorce is what we want or not, it is rarely how the parties involved see their situation at the time of divorce. Sure, emotional settling is the real skill for dealing with emotional battles, and legal knowledge for appropriate legal rights.

When we acknowledge and provide for these two elements, we may have a more generally acceptable system for divorce.

Yours faithfully,
LANE COOPER,
Dalton's Farm,
Rimney,
Sussex.

March 28.

Sir, Mr R. Swann
 Sir, Mr William Frankel (March 13) and I obviously know very different French Jews. My friends naturally feel concern for their fellow-Jews in the Middle East, but few feel the same sympathy for Israeli intransigence; most, in fact, would like to see the Palestinians exercise the right of self-determination just as the Jews claimed to be doing when they set up the state of Israel. I am not a majority of French Jews: are not associated with the organizations which claim to speak for them. On the contrary they are worried that Jews in general may be held in some way responsible for the criminal follies of the Begin administration, which may indeed have disastrous consequences for France, as indeed for all of us in Western Europe.

Does it not occur to Mr Frankel that if the newspaper and television attitude to Israel has changed from one of criminal exasperation (not "hostility") to this, is because it is Israel that is more and more seen as the obstacle to peace?

Yours faithfully,
 ROBERT SWANN,
 8 Rue des Volontaires,
 Paris 75015.

From Mr. R. A. Meredith
Sir, In reply to Mr Edward
Gardner's question in *The Times* to-
day (March 25).
First, I like the principle of no
taxation without representation and
therefore see no reason why
foreigners who live and work here
should not vote.
Second, I like anomalies which
temper logic before it leads to
intolerance.
Third, I like the Irish.
Yours faithfully,
RALPH A. MEREDITH,
3 Sudeley Street, N1.
March 25.

From Mr H. T. Lovett-Turner
 Sir, Was it not apt that His Grace
 the Archbishop of Canterbury was
 enthroned on a Tuesday whereas
 our bringer of woe, the Chancellor,
 was obliged to defer his Budget
 until Wednesday?
 "Tuesday's child is full of grace"
 "Wednesday's child is full of woe."
 Yours faithfully,
 H. T. LOVETT-TURNER,
 58 Harvard Road,
 Chiswick, W4.

EIGESTER...

ntre of
dependence

Call: John Brown
0533 549922
Ext 6760

Stock markets
FT Index 432.4, up 5.4
FT Gilts 84.82, down 0.66

Sterling
£2.1425, down 2.15 cents
index 72.3, down 0.3

Dollar
index 91.8, up 1.0

Gold
503, down 51

Money
3-month sterling 18½-18¾
6-month Euro \$ 20-20½
6-month Euro \$ 19½-19¾

IN BRIEF

7m grant
in EEC
fishing
industry

The hard-pressed fishing
industry has been given a £7m
grant from the EEC towards
overhauling fishing vessels and
the setting up of five
new grants on top of
the £7m grant from the
Government.

The National
Fishermen's Organisation
said that EEC aid
was only after an
initial decision had been
made by the Government.

The choice will be an-
nounced later.

The Saudi
refinery, the Saudi
company, has signed
an agreement for a joint ven-
ture to be built at
the development
of the refinery, which
will cost more than
£450m.

The Act attacked
the Bank of England's
first announcement of its
first authorized banks today.
Mr Walter Salomon,
of Rea Brothers,
the Banking Act as
nationalization.

The fish merchants
have acted by a strike which
has closed the port's ice
merchants had to send
wrecks wrapped only in
ice paper.

The gas storage plan
has been bought out by
the partially
rough field in the
area and intends convert-
ing it into a natural
gas storage tank for surplus gas.

The concession
to make concessions
in whisky exports to
Japan and to other
markets has increased
the price.

The financial limit of the
Irish Development
has been raised by
£50m to £100m.
The new limit will
be £100m.

The bank help
Armstrong, chairman of
land Bank, hints in his
speech published yester-
day that the bank might do
something about rewarding
current holders.

Financial Editor, page 21

US prime rate
nears 20 per cent
as dollar surges
on world markets

By Caroline Atkinson in London
and Peter Norman in Brussels
American prime rates climbed
to yet another record level yester-
day as Chase Manhattan
Bank raised its prime lending
rate to 19½ per cent, the first
big bank to put the rate
charged to its best customers up
to such a height.

Last Friday some banks had
moved their rates up to 19½
per cent, although Chase had
then stayed at 19½ per cent.
Rates have probably still not
peaked, although the tight
United States money squeeze
has sent them soaring in the
past few weeks.

Money poured into dollars
yesterday, even before the news
of the higher interest rates.
Foreign exchange dealers have
expected a further rise in
United States interest rates and
have bought up the currency
accordingly. There was hectic
market activity as foreign
central banks tried to slow the
dollar's rise.

The West German Govern-
ment is to arrange to borrow
Deutsche marks from the
United States Government to
help cover its yawning pay-
ments gap of more than
DM24,000m (£5,783m) ex-
pected this year.

A senior official from the
finance ministry in Bonn is
understood to be visiting
Washington this week to ne-
gotiate the terms.
It is expected that the United
States will be offered German
Government promissory notes
of more than two years life in
a deal similar to that recently
concluded between Bonn and
Saudi Arabia.

However, the scale of the
borrowing from the United
States is likely to be much
smaller than the estimated
5,000m mark borrowing from
the Saudi Arabian monetary
agency. It is thought that the
sum involved will be about
1,000m marks.

The initiative for this latest
German borrowing abroad
appears to have come from the
United States authorities,
which are anxious to find a
lucrative haven for Deutsche
mark surpluses accumulated in
the course of the dollar's
advance.

The operation is not there-
fore directly connected with the
latest sharp rise in the dollar's
value. German monetary
authorities seem to accept that
they will have to live with a
strong dollar as long as the
present wide gap of about nine
percentage points exists
between yields on Deutsche
mark and dollar investments.

However, they do not seem to
like it much. Although the Ger-
man central bank was selling
dollars from its reserves yester-
day in an attempt to slow the
dollar's rise, the mark dropped
1½ per cent and closed at an
18-month low of DM1.9725 to
the dollar.

The Japanese authorities have
intervened even more substan-
tially than the Germans. They
have spent as much as \$5,000m
since Friday trying to hold up
the yen.

The high level of market in-
tervention shows how anxious
the Japanese government is to
stop the yen falling and adding
to inflationary pressures at
home.

Yesterday the Japanese and
Swiss announced the setting up
of a new exchange line between
the two countries worth
200,000,000 yen (£369m) to
defend the yen.

The currency has fallen to
a two and a half year low
against the dollar, closing in
London yesterday at 254.5 yen
to the dollar.

Sterling performed better than
most currencies against the dol-
lar yesterday. Although falling
at one point to \$2.129, it re-
covered to finish at \$2.1425,
down 2.15 cents on the day.

In trade-weighted terms the
pound dropped by 0.3 points
to close at 72.3 per cent of its
end 1971 value.

Doubt on scope for future tax cuts

By Our Economics Staff
The Government is overoptimistic about
the scope for tax cuts later in this Parlia-
ment, according to the specialist advisers to
the House of Commons Treasury and
Civil Service Committee.

Treasury officials will be questioned by
the committee this morning on the budget.
The Spending White Paper and the
medium term financial strategy announced
last week.

Dr Alan Budd of the London Business
School, Dr Paul Nield of stockbrokers
Phillips and Drew, and Mr Terry Ward
of the Cambridge Department of Applied
Economics have written papers for the
committee. Although the three have differ-
ent views on the economy they are in
broad agreement that there will be less
room for tax cuts in 1983 and 1984 than
the Government's figure of £3,500m
(1978-79 prices).

The Government's spending plans are
unrealistic according to Dr Nield and
Mr Ward who expect a far smaller drop
in public spending between now and 1983
than shown in the Spending White Paper.
The main reason for their scepticism is
that much of the reduction in spending
is supposed to come from a vast improve-
ment in the finances of nationalized in-
dustries. This would depend on rapidly rising
charges by the nationalized industries
which the economists think unlikely.

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that much of the reduction in spending
is supposed to come from a vast improve-
ment in the finances of nationalized in-
dustries. This would depend on rapidly rising
charges by the nationalized industries
which the economists think unlikely.

The nationalized industries are
assumed in the white paper to move from
a deficit of £2,300m in 1979-80 to an
overall surplus of £400m by 1983-84 (at
constant 1979 prices). The Government's
planned cuts in housing are also thought
to be unrealistic. The cuts of £2,500m
in the housing programme over the next
four years would require very sharp rises
in council rents, and a big increase in the
real value of rents.

Although Dr Budd is less sceptical
about the Government's ability to meet its
spending plans than the others he agrees
that the Government will be forced to
borrow more than planned for in the
medium term financial strategy.

Dr Budd believes that there will be
about £1,000m (in 1978-79 prices) less
for tax cuts in 1983 and 1984 than in
the Government's medium term
strategy. Both Mr Ward and Dr Nield
doubt if there will be any at all.

The picture is especially gloomy be-
cause the advisers assume much larger
North Sea oil revenues than the Govern-
ment does. Despite the extra £3,000m to
£4,000m (1978-79 prices) from the North
Sea which they expect by 1983-84, the
economists still believe the Government
will be up against its borrowing target.

Treasury ministers have been keen to
emphasize that the Government's assump-
tions about economic growth in the
medium term are cautious. But the
advisers disagree: they believe that the
1 per cent a year growth after 1980 will
be hard to achieve.

If growth is lower than the Govern-
ment has assumed then the public sector
borrowing requirement will tend to be
larger than allowed for.

There would be more unemployment,
higher spending on unemployment pay,
less personal and company income, so
government tax receipts would be lower.

Panel's decision.
The companies which the
Panel alleges acted together
and are controlled by Mr Raper
are Gasco Investments (Hong
kong) with 34.5 million shares
or 29.6 per cent, Ruffec
(Luxembourg) with 470,000
shares or 4.2 per cent, Aerolinas
Cordoba (Panama) with 400,000
shares or 3.4 per cent. Mr
Raper directly controls 1,000
shares and is chairman of
Gasco.

Mr Raper was unavailable for
comment at his Swiss home
last night, but Mr Malcolm
Stone, chairman of St Piran
and managing director of Gasco
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the Panel's evidence was cir-
cumstantial. He expressed the
opinion that Mr Raper had
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on March 21, after asking for
postponement, because the
issue was prejudged.

Mr Stone said a meeting of
the Gasco board would be held
soon, and he stressed that
Gasco had never said it would
not accept the Panel's conclu-
sion. But he did not know
whether the Panel's evidence was
able to make an offer for the
rest of the shares. And he said
that as far as he knew there
was no connection between
Gasco, Ruffec, and Aerolinas
Cordoba.

Bank puts
off recall
of special
deposits

By John Whitmore
Strong institutional demand
for government stock yesterday
enabled the Government
to achieve its first fund-
ing since last week's Budget.
Supplies of the long-dated
stock, Treasury 14 per cent
1996, were quickly declared
exhausted.

Earlier in the morning the
Bank of England had announced
that it was to defer its plans
to recall more than £500m from
the banking system next Tues-
day. This money will not now
have to be lodged at the central
bank as special deposits until
June.

The major factor in bringing
institutions into the gilt market
yesterday, however, appears to
have had more to do with the
settlement of the steel strike.
Prices had already moved
higher on Monday afternoon
and yesterday's follow-through
found the Government broker-
able to supply the tap stock
without cutting its price.

The stock which currently
trades in £50 paid form was ex-
hausted at £50 5/16. Market
estimates suggested that rather
more than half the £800m nomi-
nal stock may still have been
held by the Government broker-
hands before the start of busi-
ness yesterday.

The authorities will doubtless
be happy about yesterday's
sales. They had found the
market's initial reaction to last
Wednesday's Budget rather dis-
appointing and may well have
been wondering whether they
might have to cut their tap
prices—there is also a short
tap outstanding—to get funding
moving again.

As it is they must now
decide how quickly to produce
a replacement stock. If they
wish to have any chance of
selling any in the present bank-
ing month—which ends
April 16—then they will almost
certainly have to announce a
new stock before the Easter
holiday.

With money markets gen-
erally expected to remain tight
for some weeks yet, the
short term interest rates will
again above 18 per cent, the
Bank may also defer this un-
winding operation. On the other
hand, pressure on some clearers
could now be somewhat relieved
as Treasury 14 per cent 1996
falling into reserve asset status.

Until there is some general
easing in the money market
conditions, there can be little
prospect of an early fall in the
Bank of England minimum
lending rate. Although the
Government is under pressure
from business to reduce interest
rates as quickly as possible, the
Chancellor's speech last week
was notable for the absence of
any guidance on interest rates
beyond the short term.

The Government is keen to
see rates lower, but the further
rise in overseas rates is not
making things any easier and
there could be considerable
problems for domestic monetary
control once the "corset" is
removed unless it is clear that
the corporate sector's borrowing
is starting to decelerate sharply
by then.

What the authorities will
clearly not do at the moment,
however, is to try to
play their hands. Sales of gilt-
edged securities to the private
sector drain liquidity out of the
banking system.

It is because of this contin-
ing tightness in short-term
money markets which in turn
puts enormous pressure on the
reserve assets of the banking
system, that the Bank yesterday
decided to make yet another
deferral of its plans to recall
money from the banks.

Financial Editor, page 21

Takeover Panel rules on St Piran

By Michael Prest
The Takeover Panel has ruled
that Mr James Raper and com-
panies registered in Hongkong,
Luxembourg and Panama, ac-
tively engaged in controlling
over 30 per cent of St Piran,
the mining and property com-
pany, and that an obligation
was incurred to bid for the rest
of St Piran's shares.

At the end of one of the
most complex inquiries it has
conducted, the Panel, whose
chairman Lord Shawcross is
shortly to retire, concluded:
"The 34 per cent shareholding
in St Piran, which Mr Raper
had acquired and controlled sub-
stantially under his control through
a complex web of companies."

The Panel says that Mr
Raper and those acting with
him, should bid for the out-
standing shares at 85p each.
But it says there is no obliga-
tion as to whether the funds
are available for such an offer.
There is no appeal against the

Panel's decision.
The companies which the
Panel alleges acted together
and are controlled by Mr Raper
are Gasco Investments (Hong
kong) with 34.5 million shares
or 29.6 per cent, Ruffec
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was no connection between
Gasco, Ruffec, and Aerolinas
Cordoba.

The Panel's decision will
have further implications. It
will be seen as a warning that
the conditions of the Takeover
Code cannot be fulfilled by
simply revealing the name of
nominee shareholders if the
identity of the beneficial holder
is material. Secondly, the Panel
reserves the right to determine
whether a concert party exists
by reference to circumstantial
evidence, particularly as it re-
lates to the board of directors.

St Piran was founded in 1970
to bring together interests in
the Far East, mainly Thai-
land, and in Cornwall, where

the company has 65 per cent
of South Crofty. Since then its
board has changed frequently,
and many of the directors have
been closely associated with Mr
Raper. Between 1973 and 1976
Mr Raper was chairman of St
Piran.

Continued on page 23, col 4

Imperial may abandon
Howard Johnson bid

By Richard Allen
Imperial Group seems to be
on the verge of withdrawing its
controversial £630m (£295m)
takeover offer for Howard
Johnson, the United States
hotels and restaurants chain.

Neither group would com-
ment on the public offer yester-
day, but it seems the deal has
run into a batch of insurmount-
able last-minute problems.
The deal is still blocked by
liquor licensing problems in
four states, which account for
about 25 per cent of Ho-Jo's
business, while new penal
requirements in the
United States could increase
dramatically the financing costs
of the takeover.

Meanwhile in his annual re-
port released yesterday, Mr
Howard Johnson warns share-
holders that the group faces
problems of rising inflation and
petrol availability that could cut
into its motor lodge and restau-
rant business.

Speculation that the bid
would collapse began last week
when Sir John Pile, Imperial's
outgoing chairman, told share-
holders at the annual meeting
that there were "questions still
to be answered" regarding
aspects of the Ho-Jo business.

The subsequent silence has
incensed officials on Wall
Street where Ho-Jo shares, sold
after Sir John's remarks, have
returned to trading at \$15, well below that \$28
value of the Imperial offer. The
New York Stock Exchange is
understood to be pressing the
American group for clarification.

Increasing the confusion,
Imperial has been linked with
another possible United States
acquisition, Banquet, the RCA
frozen food subsidiary which is
up for sale at more than \$400m.
RCA has mentioned Imperial
as a possible rival bidder to the
Coca-Cola organization, al-
though the British group was
apparently surprised at the
suggestion.

Financial Editor, page 21

UK design
standards
challenged

It is becoming more and
more difficult to find original
British designs worthy of
award, the Design Council said
at its annual announcement of
awards yesterday.

Mr Ken Grange, head of the
judges' panel said: "Money is
not being invested in the de-
sign of new products. There is
no commitment even though we
have some of the best designers
in the world."

The council has nominated
seven manufacturers, two in
Scotland and five in England.
In all, 228 candidates were
considered but the council con-
ceded that most arose from the
Council's research to discover
companies not registered.

The winners were Braham
Security Equipment of London
(for its new padlock), Donald
Brothers from Dundee for its
new fabric collection; Crabtree
Electrical Industries of Walsall's
design of light switches; Britax-
Excelsior from Surrey for its de-
sign of a safety yachting har-
ness; Vango of Glasgow for its
design of a "snowway" rubber
dinghy; Ian Proctor Design
from Devon for the company's
dinghy paddle; and Goodwin
Wheeler Associates of London
for its plastic seating for bus
stops and stations.

For Britax it is the third
time that it has qualified for
such an award, the previous
ones being given for an indus-
trial harness and a heated
mirror designed for commercial
vehicle. The company has also
gained a double this year by
qualifying for an award in
motoring designs for its rear
view demister.

Financial Editor, page 21

Margaret Stone

Building talks in jeopardy

By John Huxley
The future of the Group of
Eight, which represents the
construction industry in infor-
mal talks with the Government,
is again in jeopardy. Mr George
Henderson, national secretary of
the Transport and General
Workers' Union construction
and crafts group, yesterday
withdrew from today's group
meeting with Mr Michael Hes-
eltine, Secretary of State for the
Environment.

Mr Henderson, one of two
union representatives of the
group, is considering whether to
withdraw permanently. In
recent months he has become
increasingly dissatisfied with
talks with ministers which he
feels have failed to avert fur-
ther cuts in the industry's
workload.

The group, which also in-
cludes representatives of em-
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Controls on
Soviet ship
trade urged

By Michael Bailly
Western Europe should con-
trol trade via Russian shipping
and the Trans-Siberian Railway
in the same way that it controls
landings by Aeroflot, Mr Jack
Krusse, the new chairman of the
Far Eastern Freight Conference
and chairman of Hapag-Lloyd
the German shipping group
said yesterday.

He described EEC efforts to
monitor Russian cut-price ship-
ping passing through west
European ports as ridiculous
and said only forceful action
by the West would succeed in
countering the threat posed by
Russian shipping and the Trans-
Siberian Railway.

The EEC was the obvious
body to provide this action but
so far had failed to do so.
The railway constituted a
unique threat to Far East trade
because it was efficient
with total flexibility in pricing,
and governed only by the polit-
ical ambition of the Soviet
government to earn foreign ex-
change, influence the affairs of
other countries, and develop
continentalization.

Thus although the railway at
present carried only about 10
per cent Europe-Far East trade
compared with 15 per cent car-
ried by outsiders, it was a more
difficult problem to deal with
than outsiders.

Outsider lines could be dealt
with by commercial means and
could be expected to cease
growing as excess shipyard
capacity throughout the world
was brought under control.

But the Russians could be
dealt with only by political
action by governments com-
cerned to protect the commer-
cial activities of their citizens
in the same way as they were
prepared to protect the in-
terests of their state-owned air-
lines.

Mr Gordon Borrie (left) Director General, Office of Fair Trading, emphasizing a point to
Sir John Methven, Director General of the Confederation of British Industry, during a
break at the conference on the Competition Bill in London yesterday.

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CBI voices misgivings about new
powers for Fair Trading chief

By Derek Harris,
Commercial Editor
Misgivings about wide new
competition powers for Mr
Gordon Borrie, Director General
of Fair Trading, and the lack
of redress in the courts against
results of new-style investiga-
tions, emerged strongly at a
conference on the Government's
Competition Bill in London
yesterday organized by the
Confederation of British In-
dustry (CBI).

Sir John Methven, the Direc-
tor General of the CBI, who
had given warning that the CBI
would monitor carefully the
implementing of the new com-
petition legislation, was asked
if Mr Borrie would not be a
Lord Chief Justice, creating
case law as he went along.

Sir John said: "There is a
real danger here—just as there
was when some time ago I was
Director General of Fair Trading.
There is an enormous
panoply of powers being in-
vested in one man and here
we are going into an entirely
new scene that is quite
untested."

Sir John stressed the need
for the Office of Fair Trading,
when it begins investigation
of anti-competitive practices
under the Competition Bill
after it becomes law tomorrow,
to have people with practical
business experience on its staff.

He said: "Return on capital
in industry and commerce is
placement cost basis is 2 per
cent. If the Bill's new powers
were used without discrimina-
tion it could lower that return
still further."

While he did not question
the role which the government
had to play in the operation
of an effective and fair com-
petition policy, Sir John be-
lieved that the existing powers

of the Director General and of
the Monopolies and Mergers
Commission were already
sufficiently wide. It was be-
cause the wider powers were
so imprecise that the CBI had
pressed

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

A taste for gilts

Bankers may feel that they are doing something by pumping vast quantities of dollars into foreign exchange markets. The Japanese, for instance, are red to have sold anything up to now since Friday. But many outsiders are not so sure.

The Bank of England has not under the same sort of temptation with continuing to show considerable strength. It may have fallen by just one per cent against the dollar over the month, but the trade-weighted index is in 1½ per cent down and appreciation of the Deutschmark, for example, has risen 4 per cent.

The March reserve figures may give a better indication as to how far any "smoothing" may have gone, but, he already acute pressures in short-money markets, it is probably just as the authorities have not needed to step in on any great scale.

The authorities have had to defer recall of special deposits for the month (this time from mid-April to mid-May) and with the funding machine back at yesterday, they may also have to ward this month's planned repurchase of gilts by the clearing banks.

Finally, money markets expect the rightness to extend right through the month with three month interbank rate at 18½ per cent yesterday (and States primes at 19½ per cent) lost the authorities remain in a delicate position.

Today's exhaustion of the remaining part of the long "tap" should, however, mean some more general easing after last week's disappointing response to the Budget. It remains to be seen whether they will provide a gent stock.

It will be that the April money market is reasonably well under control. On the other hand, there is a move to have a partly paid stock in time for next Thursday's bank-which are generally expected to be at the moment there is no funding post mid-April.

Panel and paper
The publication of yesterday's statement by the Panel on Takeovers and Mergers has swung the big guns round. For this is going to be the case of whether the Panel is a force to be reckoned with, or simply a sop to the conscience of the City.

The case against Mr Raper, former of St Piran, is that he and parties in him has been acting in concert, merely retained the 34 per cent holding in the company which he had in 1974, but have augmented it to 40 per cent, in consequence, they are making an offer for the remainder of the shares under Rule 34 of the City Code.

Question now is what the Panel is to do about it. The answer, it appears, is for a reasonable time to see Messrs Raper and others come up with goods, and failing that, whether to be induced—if necessary under the suspension of the shares (which worry them, but certainly worries any bankers)—to dissipate their or to sell them on to someone who is prepared to make the offer required.

Unfortunately, it is likely to hurt suffering independent shareholders many quite as much as the bunch of accusations of exercising *de facto* control over the company.

It will tell if this tough talk must be followed by equally tough action. It is regrettable that the old not have chosen better ground over fighting. Its case against Messrs Raper is strong, but not entirely based on circumstantial evidence, and Mr Raper's supposed denial.

Bank rights for future
Bank's annual report makes it clear that the group is still in search of the elusive "it" in the United States. Congress is still on foreign acquisitions of banks, and the possibility that the ban will be extended, if in an election year.

Meanwhile, the Midland has had to content itself with expansion in France where its wholesale subsidiary is now operating and where it has acquired control of BCI, a bank specialising in property which hit a rough patch a few years ago. In any case Midland's strong links with correspondent banks throughout the world is to some extent a substitute for real expansion overseas.

An analysis of the split of deposits shows that last year the level of currency deposits has grown from 25 to 34 per cent, a reflection of Midland's efforts on the currency markets. Significantly, too, the level of

current accounts as a percentage of sterling deposits has shrunk from 41 to 36 per cent, perhaps explaining why the Midland might think about changing the cost structure of its current deposits.

So, a modest profit improvement this year—say from £315m to £330m—would put the shares at 320p on a prospective fully taxed p/e ratio of no more than 33 and would yield over 10 per cent if the dividend rose by around 15 per cent. This is not a high rating for a leading clearer even if interest rates do fall in the near future.

The unheralded inclusion of new rules in the forthcoming Finance Bill which will enable a new kind of unit trust to emerge to deal in fixed interest securities should do much to revive the ailing spirits, not to mention sales of the unit trust industry. Its inability to market gilt-edged unit trusts, because of the extra tax burden it places on unit holders, has been a major impediment to progress.

In the past the Whitehall line has always been that to open up the gilt market to unit trusts would detract from the Government's own direct sales to the public. To the extent that the new arrangements effectively preclude mixed equity and gilt funds, it seems likely in fact, that sales of the new gilt funds, which should hit the market in a few months' time will indeed come from existing fixed interest investors—not necessarily in gilts—looking for professional management, rather than equity investors looking for extra cream from their high income funds.

The advent of domestic gilt funds should not have too great an impact on the £170m offshore gilt fund sector, which will still be able to offer income gross, a proven investment record and probably lower charges.

Imperial Doubts about Ho-Jo
Imperial Group's American takeover aspirations seem to be crumbling; dealings in Howard Johnson stock re-opened on Monday at just over \$14 on Wall Street, half the bid value of Imperial's bid terms, and was only slightly higher yesterday.

At present all shareholders know is what Sir John Pile, the outgoing Imperial chairman, said last week that there are "questions still to be answered" on the deal.

Imperial, sitting on investments, mainly gilts, of £500m, is a solid income stock yielding 13½ per cent and will undoubtedly make much better profits in the current year if the Ho-Jo bid fails than if it succeeds if only because of the penal borrowing costs involved at present.

But if the Ho-Jo bid is off, Imperial, after four years of static profits, will surely have to produce some alternatives.

One may be a scheme to pay out part of its cash mountain to shareholders.

Meanwhile, any withdrawal at this stage will not help the credibility of Imperial's strategy among investors on both sides of the Atlantic.

Business Diary: Belch's next move? • B Cal over Cathay
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There are still those who are waiting for evidence of a recession in the United States before predicting a global downturn, but the feeling seems to be gathering strength among western central banks and Treasury officials that 1981 could prove a more testing time for the world economy than 1975, when recession affected virtually all leading industrial countries.

And even though the true recession in the United States may not get underway before the end of this year, the effects of United States policy are already spilling over on to continental Europe. Britain, until now the sole obvious candidate for recession in the European Community, could prove to be just the forerunner of a downturn affecting all the EEC states.

The possibility of Europe moving into recession prompts the question therefore, as to what can be done to achieve an eventual recovery.

Patent remedies for the world's economic ills come and go like disco crazes. Having captured the imagination of economic policy makers for several months, the "soft landing" could now be about to take the same road to oblivion as the "convey" and "locomotive" theories before it.

The soft landing was that comforting theory whereby economic activity in the West would run down gently into a shallow recession from which a managed recovery would be fairly easy to achieve.

But President Jimmy Carter's belated but stringent counter-inflation policy, following last year's big increase in oil prices, probably means that the next recession will be deeper and the fall into it steeper than anticipated.

Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead, chairman of the Midland Bank.



Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead, chairman of the Midland Bank.

How capable is the EEC of coping with a recession?

Peter Norman suggests that the Community is in a weaker state than in 1975 to face a fresh economic downturn

Senior central bank and Treasury officials from the leading industrial nations of the West had a first opportunity to assess the world economic outlook in the light of the Carter package at a series of meetings held under the auspices of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris last month.

To bring on a recession is what the tough credit policy of Mr Paul Volcker, the chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Board, is all about. The United States economy has been sustained in recent months by consumer spending, in itself an expression of an inflationary mentality. Real interest rates are the primary method of curbing these trends.

The problem is that Mr Volcker's policy has also restored confidence in the dollar thus forcing other countries to try and match the high American interest rates or court a flight of funds from their own currencies and the attendant dangers of depreciation and imported inflation.

The effects have been grotesque in the case of some of the traditionally hard currency countries that participate in the European Monetary System. Belgium, for example, has an inflation rate of around 6.6 per cent at present. Its bank rate stands at 14 per cent, while a first class corporate borrower is having to pay overdraft rates of about 20 per cent, making the real cost of borrowed funds around 13 per cent.

In West Germany, where the year-on-year consumer price rise is still just under 6 per cent, the federal government is having to pay nearly 10 per cent for medium-term funds.

Belgium has already been hit by a rash of business failures, particularly in the traditionally interest rate sensitive areas of construction and retailing. In West Germany, where there is still a carry over of last year's strong growth performance, government officials are forecasting hard times for small and

medium-sized manufacturers spreading next year to the construction, automobile and investment goods sectors.

The combination of the tighter credit squeeze and the strong dollar is threatening the economies of those EEC countries with low inflation rates at a time when major industrial countries like Britain, France and Italy with double digit inflation have no alternative but to give priority to policy to combating rising prices.

In general the EEC is facing the prospect of a new world recession in a weaker state than it entered the recession of 1975. Europe will be moving into 1981 with a higher underlying rate of inflation and higher level of unemployment than six years before.

It is expected that the surplus of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries—estimated at \$120,000m this year—will prove more difficult to eradicate than after the oil price rises of 1973-74. Not only

will the Opec states adjust their oil output to avoid the reappearance of production surpluses, but the revolution in Iran should continue to put a brake on ambitious development programmes in Islamic states that would have absorbed western manufactured goods.

But perhaps more disturbing is the argument that the EEC will not be able to spend its way out of recession in the same way that member states boosted domestic demand after 1975.

Just as the oil crisis of 1973 and 1974 was followed by only limited savings of energy, so the recovery from the recession of 1975 produced only a partial cutback in the level of public borrowing in the member states of the EEC.

The net central government borrowing requirement as a percentage of gross domestic product in the EEC rose from 3 per cent in 1974 to 5.9 per cent in 1975 although it was cut back subsequently to 3.2 per cent in 1977. By last year it had crept back upwards to 4.6 per cent.

Of significant that West Germany, which has the soundest economy of any of the EEC member states, has been clamping down on public expenditure since the beginning of this year.

So far concern that Europe might be lacking in ammunition to combat recession has been expressed at the level of senior officials only. But pressure can now be expected to build up for the world economic summit in Venice in June to consider a strategy in time, individual countries could seek the answer in protectionism.

John Huxley

Dutch pay the price for their cheap gas policy

Since natural gas was first discovered in the vast North Sea Groningen field in 1959, the Netherlands has become almost synonymous with gas in any analysis of the European energy scene.

Politicians and economists seeking to make the most advantageous use of Britain's North Sea oil and gas riches have frequently sought pointers in the experience of the Dutch over the past 20 years.

About 85 per cent of Dutch homes rely on gas for heating and about 80 per cent of industrial uses gas. Altogether gas meets more than half of total energy needs in The Netherlands.

At the same time, the country is the world's largest gas exporter, supplying Western Europe with 41 per cent of its needs. Yet the history of the exploitation of these immense resources—proven reserves at the beginning of last year totalled 1,39,000 million cubic metres—is a cautionary tale.

The Dutch now face the prospect of paying more for the gas they have begun to import to conserve the precious Groningen resources than they are paid for the Groningen gas exports.

Mr Gijs van Aardenne, the Economics Minister, recently even threatened to cut off gas supplies to West Germany, France, Belgium, Italy and Switzerland if higher prices are not agreed.

The "muddle" started in one of the world's largest gas reserves at the beginning of the 1960s. It was feared that unless gas was re-covered and sold off rapidly, The Netherlands could—in the words of Gasunie, the national distribution company—be "stuck with our buried treasure".

Dutch energy experts remain understandably defensive about the decisions taken 20 years ago. They argue that only in retrospect can they justifiably be criticised for committing so much gas so early, and thereby closing other energy options. They accept, however, that what now appears a short-sighted readiness to serve immediate ends has far-reaching lessons for all those involved in exploiting precious natural resources.

Gasunie explained recently: "In the 1960s the notion of energy abundance prevailed. Moreover, people thought very highly of the advent and significance of nuclear energy. Thus in the gas marketing plan from that period, gas sales policy was directed at fast penetration of natural gas into domestic energy supply and export of considerable quantities of gas."

Then in the mid-1970s came huge Opec-inspired oil price rises. There was a sudden change of policy embodied in the government's 1974 memorandum on energy, which called for increased conservation, expansion of nuclear power and coal use and the reduction of

natural gas depletion to minimum levels consistent with existing contracts, some of which were due to run for up to 25 years.

There had been a sudden recognition that The Netherlands was sitting on an increasingly sensitive resource, whose depletion had to be more carefully controlled.

No new natural gas sales contracts are being entered into and customers have been told that existing contracts will not be renewed. Gasunie says to be met by imported oil and gas. Between 1974 and 1978 import contracts for about 100,000 million cubic metres of gas were concluded.

An attempt was made to index oil prices with oil, but the system still does not function efficiently.

There is now a new gas marketing plan, in which an attempt has been made to chart energy demand and supply up to the year 2003. The general aim, according to Gasunie, is to "continue the supply of natural gas in The Netherlands for as long as possible in an economically justified manner."

The main plank is conservation of the low-cost Groningen resources for the most efficient users and as a strategic reserve. Intensive surveying and exploitation of smaller natural gas reserves within The Netherlands is also being pursued.

The supply of liquid natural gas has been negotiated with Algeria and Norway and talks

about further imports are being held with the Soviet Union, Iran, Nigeria and Middle East countries.

Domestic conservation policies have been reinforced. The sales strategy is aimed at securing supplies for the most efficient users, with no increase in supplies for burning in power stations.

The energy conservation target is to reduce energy inputs per unit of output by 10 per cent between 1977 and 1985, and by a further 20 per cent before the end of the century. An expensive national insulation programme is being undertaken to reduce household heating requirements.

The government's 1979 energy strategy also assumed a greater role in meeting the nation's energy requirements for coal and oil, and nuclear power, but each poses particular problems. Environmental objections are likely to make a switch to dirtier coal resources a slow and probably painful process.

The Netherlands has only modest oil reserves and is disturbed by the prospect of buying in supplies on a market which is increasingly dominated by government-to-government deals.

Equally, there is no indication that, after many years of delay, there will be any immediate progress in the nuclear power station programme given the strength of public feeling about its safety.

But the more immediate problem for The Netherlands is not a shortage of energy so much as the price it and its customers should pay. In the area of natural gas, this problem has become critical in recent weeks.

On the one side, the Dutch now face long delays in obtaining supplies from Algeria under the terms of a contract signed with the state energy group Sonatrach. On the other, measures are being taken to make it technically possible for The Netherlands to stop gas going to its West European neighbours if they continue to refuse to agree to price rises.

Of course, many countries would willingly have the problem of the Dutch. After all, natural gas still provides almost 10 per cent of government revenue, although its contribution is falling. And the existence of such reserves—dwindling though they may be—should provide a basis for security, if not prosperity in the energy-hungry eighties and nineties.

But it is a continuing irony of the Dutch energy equation that the present pricing system—by which there is a delayed adjustment of gas prices to cover part of crude price rises—means that Dutch consumers are paying more for gas than foreign customers—at a time when the government, along with other western nations, is facing financial difficulties.

The million dollar campaign trail

Frank Vogl

which know how to split the advertising budgets between radio, television, newspapers and magazines to the best advantage.

One such expert is Mr Elliot Curson, whose private advertising agency in Philadelphia has been planning and producing television commercials for Mr Ronald Reagan, the former Governor of California, who leads the race to become the Republican Party's Presidential candidate in November's election. Another is the Goodman agency in Baltimore, which has been recruited by the campaign for Mr George Bush, another seeker of the Republican nomination. And then there is Rafshoon communication.

Mr Gerald Rafshoon's claim to fame is that he played an important role in 1976 in masterminding one of the most brilliant presidential marketing strategies of all time—the Jimmy Carter selling plan. For a time Mr Rafshoon left his private advertising agency to advise the President from within the White House on proving his public image, down to influencing Mr Carter to change his hairstyle and grin less before the television cameras.

Mr Rafshoon is now back in the private sector, running a three-man office in Washington whose sole client is the Carter campaign.

While advertising is the biggest single outlay, another is staff salaries and expenses. The Carter campaign employs

about 300 people and roughly 100 of these are in the "travelling circus", moving from state to state as the primary elections develop. As they go, they rent up bills at Avis, Hertz and other car rental companies and at hotels and office buildings, where they rent space for short periods.

Travel costs alone can run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. Mr Woodward says he handed over a \$100,000 cheque at one point in the 1976 campaign to United Air Lines. Now, when Mrs Carter and vice-president Mondale go on the campaign trail (the President says that he will not campaign outside Washington until the hostages are released in Iran), they fly in an official presidential jet—but they have to pay for it as it is being used for a political campaign. The cost works out at slightly less than that of privately chartering an aircraft.

One of the most modest campaigns for some time was that of Congressman John Anderson, the dark horse liberal Republican contender. Early in the campaign he had so little financial support that he had to take taxi, but now that his primary showings have been better than expected, private citizens are sending cash and he has a limousine and driver.

Mr Harry Koplin, member of the Anderson Campaign staff, said that expenditure in February alone amounted to \$633,697, a rough breakdown of this was: \$49,634 on advertising, \$133,000 on salaries, \$50,000 on telephones, \$75,000 on travel and accommodation, \$100,000 on the remainder on renting office space, printing and postage.

A lot of money goes into the money-raising business itself and here too there are some expert firms with valuable mailing lists and experience of knowing just how to phrase a letter to win a contribution. Nothing is more gruelling for the candidates than raising cash, as they consume one rubbery chicken after another and make speeches to the faithful who pay \$100 or more for the honour of eating with the candidate.

But candidates that do get reasonable public support can receive matching funds from the Federal Election Commission, which carefully monitors the campaign expenses of all the candidates. This money is a great help.

According to the latest reports for candidates still in the race, as filed with the commission late last month, the total spending so far of the Carter campaign has been \$6,400,000. As to the others it has been \$5,300,000 for Senator Kennedy, \$9,600,000 for Mr Reagan, \$1,400,000 for Governor Jerry Brown of California, \$6,700,000 for Mr Bush, and \$1,400,000 for Mr Anderson.

The prosecutions were brought by the Metric Society of France, which acts as a consumer watchdog in these matters. The legally approved argument is that since nobody in France knows what a pouce is—apart from being the word for a thumb—the consumer must be being duped.

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It is a far cry from the bad old days of UDI when reservations from Britain could only be made by a private phone call.



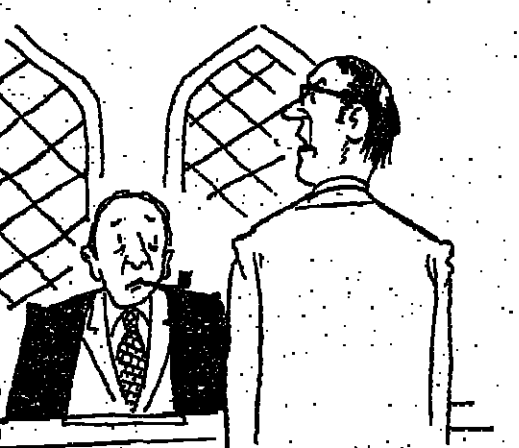
Adam Thomson: "a mixed reception."

Rolls-Royce engines for its current order, four 747s, worth a total of £70m-£80m of it going to R-R.

Zimbabwe Rhodesia's return to the outside world is progressing apace. The first international hotel reservations agreement since the start of UDI has just been signed—between Zimbabwe Sun group and the booking concern Uel. Sun managing director Peter Bester told Business Diary that rooms are at a high premium in Salisbury because of business visitors, and an expected tourist boom is fuelling an hotel expansion programme.

It is a far cry from the bad old days of UDI when reservations from Britain could only be made by a private phone call.

Cathay was particularly incensed because it has a buy-out agreement with the British policy and stipulated



"I'm sorry headmaster, but I'll have to resign. The continuous squeak of the new slates and slate pencils is getting me down."

One result of the Budget seems to be that economists are ousting Irishmen as the butt of after-dinner speeches. For instance, did you hear the one about the Cambridge economics student who failed his finals? At re-sits the next year he finds himself faced with a paper which looks remarkably familiar. On tackling an examiner about this, he is told: "Oh yes. The questions are exactly the same—but the answers are quite different."

When the Ravensdown Group announced its first buyer of the year award three years ago it had 30 applicants. The following year there were 200, and last year 300.

Ravensdown have split the award into three sections this year related to company size and turnover, in an effort to win entries from some of the smaller fish.

ber of directorships Ross Belch is rucking. He suggests that his of the chair and director's job at Scott cannot long be held, who is the boss of the shipbuilders' union in the lower Clyde. His intention to leave my earlier this year.

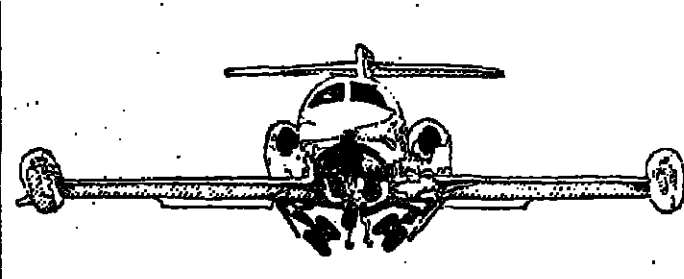
ing to an end a long the shipbuilding which has included pre-the Shipbuilders and National Association organization—and mem-f the organizing com-board of BS.

the board of Assish Engineering, the upany of British Polar e has taken his direc-to seven.

chief executive is sary, a former Ocea-ropman who was 1 for in the BS con-cessed department in days.

he will maintain an g the future of the g industry through-ent. Meanwhile, the on for his successor, idely expected that Parker, chairman and director of John C. the Scottish marine iders, and a particlar the BS board will be to run Scott Lithgow 3 moves on.

Time waits for no man.



Time waits for no man.

Time waits for no man.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Buying surge exhausts new tap

The firm trend established on Monday continued to grow yesterday as the prospects for an end to the 13-week steel strike took a step closer to reality.

Equities made further progress in the wake of gilts, where a renewed surge of buying enabled the new "tap" to be activated—only to finish exhausted a short time later.

However, this time around dealers were more confident as they reported the appearance of buyers in the market once again. Bid and breakfast bargains continued to be a strong feature of trade, only this time they took second place to the institutions which were eagerly mopping up large amounts of loose stock.

Once again trading began on a cautious note with some confusion and nervousness as to whether the steel union would return to work on Mr Bill Sirs' recommendation.

But as the morning wore on the market became steadily more confident and buyers in gilts pushed prices steadily higher.

This resulted in the new "tap" Treasury 14 per cent 1996 being activated only to be exhausted. Estimates suggested

that between £500m and £700m of the stock was soaked up by the institutions. The renewed interest in gilts came as no real surprise to jobbers, who had been expecting the institutions to show their hands before long, as the huge influx of funds continued to build up. In the event, the new "tap" closed £1 up on the day at £501, after £502, with rises

The shares of UDT have been strong for the past two days on rumours that the company might divest itself of some of its fixed-rate hire purchase business. If this were to happen, UDT could get out of the "lifeboat" and this would enhance its prospects to obtain full banking status. The shares remained unchanged at 58p yesterday.

elsewhere in the list showing gains of between £1 and £1. At the shorter end, the story was somewhat different with falls of around £1/16 in sub-divided trading.

Reports in after-hours trading that the steelworkers and blastfurnace men's union had accepted the return to work

call, gave a further boost to prices, although this was not shown in the F.T. Index which closed 5.4 up at 432.4 after 5.5 up at 2 pm.

Leading industrials were again in good form, particularly the big dollar earners which have gained ground on the recent strength of the currency. ICI climbed 8p to 374p along with Elsons 11p to 267p. Beecham 2p to 120p and BAT's 9p to 235p. Elsewhere Rowater, reporting next week, advanced 6p to 169p, Glaxo 8p to 248p while Racal put on 2p to 214p and Dunlop 1p to 56p. Unilever was unchanged at 408p.

The renewed strength in the dollar also helped insurance companies. Commercial Union gained 2p to 134p as rises were seen in Phoenix 2p to 216p and Sun Alliance 6p to 54p. The latter two are reporting full-year figures today along with insurance broker Willis Faber 8p better at 248p. Alexander Howden, which reported last week, rose 5p to 108p.

Banks followed the general market trend, although brokers felt that price movements had been greatly exaggerated by the thin trading conditions. National Westminster rose 3p to 318p, Midland 7p to 318p, following the chairman's statement, and

Lloyds 7p to 300p. Barclays could only manage a 2p improvement at 410p.

Among stores the reconstructed Gieves Group commenced trading at 45p before closing at 49p. The remainder of the sector showed only scattered improvements, although talk of a bullish brokers' circular helped Boots to a 7p rise at 183p.

Bid speculation continued to dwarf in support for Githrie 50p higher at 925p and Barget rose another 4p to 20p following the recent partial bid from Hongkong-based Tinnox. Speculative attention was also good for rises of 3p to 133p in MAM's, 4p to 178p in Low & Bonar and 13p to 163p in Saatchi & Saatchi.

Comment was good for rises of 4p in Coalite at 83p, London & Continental Advertising 2p to 20p while further reflection on Ladbroke's recent casino disposals added a further 4p to the share price at 136p.

In buildings, Barratt Developments rose 2p to 119p after news of a major United States acquisition, and investment support sav RMC improved 5p to 159p.

Among the batch of companies reporting, Sikolene Lubricants edged ahead 7p to 135p after a doubled dividend payment and improved profits, and Wace climbed 7p to 63p on a better-than-expected performance and 1-for-4 scrip.

Equity turnover on March 31, was 598,113m (20,428 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to the Exchange Telegraph, were BP, Shell, ICI, National Westminster Bank, GEC, BAT's, Boots, Premier Cons, Ultramar, Lasso, Consolidated Gold Fields, RTZ, Beecham, Courtaulds and Marks & Spencer.

Barratt Developments buys US housebuilder

By Peter Wainwright

Barratt Developments, Britain's leading private housebuilder, which erects 11,000 homes a year, has bravely decided to go deeper into debt.

Having inspected the United States market, which is about ten times bigger than the United Kingdom one with between 1m and 2m houses being built every year, Barratt has bought all the equity in American National Housing Corporation, a leading Californian housebuilder.

The initial cash consideration is \$12m with additional payments between 1983 and 1986 based on net assets and profits. Barratt says that American National made profits of \$2.3m in the year to April, 1979, but

it is unable to say what they will be this year.

American National was set up as recently as 1969 and is based in Newport Beach, in southern California. In 10 years it has built and sold almost 3,000 houses in California and Arizona. The land bank apparently is good for three years.

Mr Laurie Barratt, the chairman, says that this is the first time a United Kingdom housebuilder has bought a United States opposite number and the group plans further acquisitions in the United States in the next few years.

The news was enough to lift the shares 2p to 119p yesterday, but even so the market still worries about Barratt, whose borrowings are mounting at a

time when United Kingdom house building is going into recession.

It is now entering a new market where interest rates have recently shot up to almost 20 per cent, unprecedented in the United States, and housebuilding is going into a slump.

The United States is also a country where housebuyers have even more of their incomes geared up in prior commitments than in Britain.

Barratt recently reported interim profits 42 per cent up at £11.5m though it was, and is, subsidizing mortgages.

For this year Barratt is possibly on course for profits of £27m but next year is the critical one.

Accountancy law change opposed

By Adrienne Gleeson

The Institute of Chartered Accountants has come down against proposals to replace the auditing of small company accounts with a more limited review. In a memorandum to the Department of Trade, published yesterday, its members say that there should be no change in the law which at present requires the accounts of all limited companies to be audited.

The accountants say there has been no strong pressure for change from the users of company accounts. But they recognize that members of their profession are worried about the increasingly stringent auditing standards in the case of small companies. They suggest that an answer to the dilemma might lie in a reduction in the number of companies, many of which, they say, are dormant or have no function.

Pretax profits slip at Cape Industries

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Building and automotive products group Cape Industries, which is 67 per cent owned by Mr Harry Oppenheimer's Charter Consolidated, just failed to make up for the absence of second half profits from the mining division which was sold last June for £15m.

Pretax profits for the year to December 31 were 2 per cent down at £12.5m on sales ahead by 13 per cent to £204m.

The building division, which is involved in fire protection and insulation, had an excellent year and trading profits were nearly two-fifths higher at £12.1m and the cash released by the mining sale kept interest charges £1m below what they would have been.

But the automotive and engineering division failed to show any improvement over a disappointing first half. The replacement market for brake linings was weak and original equipment contracts on the continent did not materialize. This left the year's trading profits from automotive down from £2.18m to £1.23m.

However, increased capital allowances and stock reduced the tax charge so that earnings per share rose from 43.9p to 45.1p. The dividend, more than twice covered by current cost profits—is raised by a fifth to 16p gross. The shares yield 7 per cent at 228p and the fully-fixed p/e ratio is 9.9.

Cape expects recovery from the automotive side in 1980 and continued if slower growth from the building division.

Watts continues to spend heavily—over £3.5m in 1979 covered by cash flow—on new plant to raise added value, and plans to spend about £20m more in the next five years.

The dividend has been raised a tenth to give a yield of 3.1 per cent at 168p. The current year has started very well.

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Second-half downturn: Unicorn Industries

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Sharply lower second profits left Unicorn Industries down by 12 per cent to before tax in the year to March 31.

Strikes, lower profits, diamond merchandising, higher interest charges, the shortfall, which was a 26 per cent rise in sales group's abrasive materials diamond products to £92.

Interest charges rose £1.04m to £1.08m. Al Unicorn raised £5.63m rights issue last April, working capital and buy the outstanding 50 per cent of the £400,000 above-redundancy costs were here too.

Profits from Unicorn's, but less exciting conversion division were the engineering division. The engineering division's profits fell from £1.1m to £0.8m. A move in diamonds should aid recovery in 1980.

After a proportionate tax charge, attributable rose. But the rights issue left share value at 16p to 17p—down 3p. The year's gross profit was 16 per cent to give a yield of 13.2 per cent at 168p. The current year has started very well.

Mr Brian Ball-Greer, chairman, says the overseas market, which is generally in decline, has shown a commensurate recovery from the downturn in diamond sales, are dull. But the is expanding in counter activities such as oil and mineral exploration hopes to make higher p in 1980.

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Second-half downturn: Unicorn Industries

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Sharply lower second profits left Unicorn Industries down by 12 per cent to before tax in the year to March 31.

Strikes, lower profits, diamond merchandising, higher interest charges, the shortfall, which was a 26 per cent rise in sales group's abrasive materials diamond products to £92.

Interest charges rose £1.04m to £1.08m. Al Unicorn raised £5.63m rights issue last April, working capital and buy the outstanding 50 per cent of the £400,000 above-redundancy costs were here too.

Profits from Unicorn's, but less exciting conversion division were the engineering division. The engineering division's profits fell from £1.1m to £0.8m. A move in diamonds should aid recovery in 1980.

After a proportionate tax charge, attributable rose. But the rights issue left share value at 16p to 17p—down 3p. The year's gross profit was 16 per cent to give a yield of 13.2 per cent at 168p. The current year has started very well.

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Commodities

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It would also help a new sugar agreement in times of shortage and surplus if the size of these special stocks were larger, he told the International Sweetener and Alcohol Conference.

It had taken a long time for quotas to impact on prices and it probably should be possible to cut quotas more deeply.

Larger special stocks and wider price bands should go together while wider participation in the agreement would help with all of

3 months 16 1/2		3 months 16 1/2	
Prime Bank Bills (Days) Trades (Days)			
2 months 17 1/2-17 3/4	3 months 17 1/2		
3 months 17 1/2-17 3/4	4 months 17 1/2		
4 months 17 1/2-17 3/4	5 months 17 1/2		
5 months 17 1/2-17 3/4			
Local Authority Bonds			
1 month 15 1/2-16	7 months 16 1/2-18		
2 months 15 1/2-16	8 months 16 1/2-18		
3 months 15 1/2-16	9 months 16 1/2-17		
4 months 15 1/2-16	10 months 16 1/2-17		
5 months 15 1/2-16	21 months 16 1/2-17 1/2		
6 months 15 1/2-16	12 months 17 1/2-18		
Secondary Mkt. E.C.D Rates 1 1/2-1 3/4			
1 month 15 1/2-16	12 months 16 1/2-17 1/2		

Sterling: Other Markets		Dollar Spot Rates	
Australia	9726.7 9880	1 Ireland	7.9672-7.9700
Belgium	7.284-7.320	1 Canada	7.943-7.9466
Finland	0.64000-0.64500	1 Netherlands	7.9500-7.9500
		1 Japan	7.95-7.95
		1 Denmark	7.9500-7.9500
		1 Swiss Franc	7.95-7.95

The market opened strong, fell back a little just after midday, but quickly regained its upward momentum. Analysts said investors were encouraged by the market's ability to resist a decline after the D-J industrial average

EMS European Currency

	ECU central rates	currency against ECU	% change from central rate	% adjust
Belgium (mark)	36.7897	40.025	+2.05	+0
Danish krone	7.1236	7.4673	+1.53	+0
German 3 marks	2.4938	2.5354	+2.15	+0
French franc	5.9470	5.9425	-0.12	-1
Dutch guilder	5.7493	2.7083	-5.6	-6
Irish punt	0.7875	0.7861	-0.17	-2
Italian lira	1,257.57	1,169.50	+9.35	+0

* changes are for the ECU; therefore positive change does not mean devaluation.

	F.C.I. central rates	currency adjustment E.C.U.	% change from central rate*	% change adjusted	divergence mm. per mms.
Belgium (franc)	39.7367	-40.626	+22.85	+0.94	2.53
Danish (krone)	7.4603	-7.183	+23.82	+0.64	1.63
German (mark)	2.48205	-2.53441	+19.15	+1.04	1.123
French (franc)	2.48106	-2.54045	+19.15	+1.04	1.123
Italian (lira)	2.03612	-2.7889	+26.83	+0.82	1.987
Irish (pound)	0.66229	-0.72641	+30.71	+0.71	1.648
Italian (lira)	2.03612	-2.7889	+26.83	+0.82	1.987

* + minus for the ECU therefore positive change denotes a weaker currency

agreement, would help with all of this.

RIGHTS ISSUES	Latest date of renew	
Gen Mining (RI);	" "	32 prem
Utd Biscul (882)	Jun 13	1 prem

Issue price in parentheses. * Ex dividend.

Dealers reported a marked improvement in business yesterday as total contracts rose from Monday's depressed figure of 141 to 564. Imperial Group again held the potlatch as investors weighed the group's decision of

seven days, 16th-19th; one
 ten months, 20-30th; six

SILVER:	April	141.00-142.50:	May	142.00-143.00:	
	190.50:	June	153.50:	July	197.50:
	304.70:	Aug.	304.70:	Jan.	304.70:
	226.20:	June	226.20:	Sept.	226.20:
	231.60:	July	231.60:	Sept.	237.00:
	244.40:	Jan.	244.40:	Aug.	244.40:
	550.9:	June	551.0-551.1:	Aug.	550.9:
	550.9:	Oct.	550.9:	Dec.	550.9:
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	550.9:	Jan.	550.9:	Apr.	

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Stock Exchange Prices

Strong buying

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 24. Dealings End, April 11. § Contango Day, April 14. Settlement Day, April 21

[illegible]



Residential property



KENT

Bearsted Station 1 1/2 miles. (Victoria 70 mins). Maidstone 3 miles.

An attractive Tudor family house within easy reach of London



4 1/2 6 2 2 Oil 2 2 5 5
Additional features: Self contained wing. Solar heated swimming pool.
For sale freehold with about 7 acres.
Apply: LONDON OFFICE (Tel. 01-629 8171) (MP69467)

BERKSHIRE

Kintbury, Newbury 5 miles. Hungerford 3 miles.
A substantial modern house on the edge of a picturesque village.

4 1/2 6 2 2 Oil 2 2 5 5
For sale freehold with about 1 1/2 acres.
Joint Agents: DREWETT WATSON & BARTON, Newbury, Tel. 0635 48000 and KNIGHT FRANK & RUTLEY, London Office, (Tel. 01-629 8171) (RG69622)

SUSSEX/KENT BORDER

Tunbridge Wells 3 miles.
A superb listed 16th century manor in an elevated position.



3 1/2 6 7 4 4 Oil 2 2 5 5 H 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
Additional Features: Breakfast Room. 2 large 17th Century Bams.
For sale freehold with about 15 1/2 acres
Apply: LONDON OFFICE, (Tel. 01-629 8171) (CG69538)

HERTFORDSHIRE

Cuffley, Potters Bar 2 1/2 miles. (Kings Cross about 20 minutes)

A well proportioned house with a most delightful garden.
3 1/2 6 2 2 Gas 4 4 H 1/2 1/2 1/2 1/2
Additional features: Outbuildings.
For sale freehold with about 2 1/2 acres
Apply: LONDON OFFICE, (Tel. 01-629 8171) (MP69163)

JOHN D. WOOD

BERKSHIRE—NEAR PANGBOURNE

In a lovely unspoilt valley close to the Thames.
M4 75 minutes

WOOD FARM ESTATE

Charming Period House: with 4 reception rooms, 3 bedrooms, dressing room, 2 bathrooms. Guest Annex. Lovely Gardens. Paddock. 4 Acres. Stable House: with 4 reception rooms, 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, dressing room. Excellent stabling and outbuildings. Garden 1/2 Acre. Clock House: Lovely old timbered Barn incorporating a Maisonette with 8 rooms. Ideal for conversion (subject to Planning permission). Additional stabling. 4 car garage. 1/2 Acre. Orchard Lodge: A detached Cot Bungalow with 1 reception, 2 bedrooms, bathroom. Garden and Orchard. 1/2 Acre. Further stabling and buildings. Paddocks and woodland available in Lots.

IN ALL ABOUT 24 ACRES.
WITH VACANT POSSESSION.
For sale by Auction in 9 Lots (unless previously sold privately) on 23rd April, 1980.
Apply: John D. Wood, Berkeley Square Office (Ref. DCM) or Martin & Pole, John D. Wood, 4-5 High Street, Goring-on-Thames. Tel. (04914) 2521.

EAST SHEEN, Close to Richmond Park

AN EXCEPTIONALLY WELL APPOINTED HOUSE in a desirable position, extremely well fitted and in superb order throughout, with spacious, light reception rooms, ideal for entertaining.
Entrance hall, reception/staircase hall, drawing room, library/sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, cloakroom/sauna with shower, 2 suites of bedroom and bathroom, 3 further bedrooms and bathroom. Playroom. Full gas-fired central heating. Garage. Attractive Garden.
Freehold for Sale.
Apply: Berkeley Square Office (Ref. PDCE)

WILTSHIRE—WYLYE VALLEY

Salisbury 11 miles. Warminster 9 miles.

AN OUTSTANDING COUNTRY HOUSE

with easily managed accommodation, standing in a small park with fine views over the Wylye Valley.

Elegant hall, cloakroom, cellar, fine paneled drawing room, study, dining room, well-equipped kitchen, utility room. Principal bedroom with adjoining dressing room and bathroom. 4 further bedrooms with 4 adjoining bathrooms. 3 attic bedrooms. Excellent Staff Flat. Oil-fired central heating. Modernised 3 bedroomed Cottage. Attractive Stable Block with hard tennis court. Well-kept garden. 2 Paddocks.
IN ALL ABOUT 17 1/2 ACRES.
Freehold for Sale.
Apply: Winchester Office (Ref. MLD)

SUSSEX—BUCKHAM HILL

Uckfield 2 miles. Lewes 8 miles. Haywards Heath 10 miles. (Victoria 45 mins.)

A CHARMING SMALL HOUSE of considerable character in a delightful rural setting with a very attractive garden.

Entrance hall, cloakroom, sitting room, dining room, kitchen/breakfast room, utility room, 2 bedrooms, dressing room, sewing room, bathroom. Oil central heating. Garage. Workshop. Garden room. Old established garden. IN ALL ABOUT 1 ACRE.
Freehold for Sale by Auction on 19th May, 1980 (unless previously sold).
Joint Auctioneers: Wood, Evert & Gardner, Tel. Forest Row (034282) 2255 and John D. Wood, 11 Market Square, Horsham, Tel. (0403) 60374/62835/63843.

23 BERKELEY SQUARE, LONDON W1X 6AL
01-629 9050 Telex 21242

Knight Frank & Rutley
20 Hanover Square London W1R 0AH Telephone 01-629 8171
Also in Edinburgh Hereford Hungerford Ascot and Boroughbridge

Jackson-Stops & Staff

SURREY

Reigate 7 miles. 3/5 3 miles

IN THE WARREN AT KINGSWOOD—an excellent family house and adjoining building plot in this favoured residential area.

WHITEBAYS, WARREN DRIVE

Hall 1 reception room, kitchen, 5 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms. Central heating. Integral garage. Garden. About 1/2 acre.

Acquiring plot with outline planning permission for one detached house. About 0.4 acre.

AUCTION (unless previously sold) 14th May, 1980. 10.30 a.m. Bland, Dunsford, 100, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London W.C.2. Tel. 011 342 4392.

Apply: Joint Auctioneers: Bland, Dunsford, 100, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London W.C.2. Tel. 011 342 4392.

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BEDFORDSHIRE

Beaufort 7 miles. M1 (access 14) 11 miles

THE FINE—CARLTON. A fine detached stone built house set in grounds of about 1 acre. In need of further modernisation.

Entrance hall, sitting room, dining room, study/ sun lounge, kitchen, 4 bedrooms, bathroom, garage, outbuildings, stable.

Large garden with orchard and kitchen garden.

Auction (unless previously sold) 1st May, 1980.

Solicitors: Borneo Martelli & Co. Tel. Bedford 83414.

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La Creme

—Managerial—Administrative—Secretarial—Personal Assistants—

Senior Secretary

Phillips Petroleum is an international oil company with its U.K. Head Office based just three minutes walk from Victoria Station. We are seeking an experienced Secretary (possibly someone looking for their first career move to senior level) to assist a Vice-President and his section.

The successful applicant should be educated to 'A' level standard, have shorthand/typing speeds of 100/50 and preferably three years' previous secretarial experience. The ability to work on your own initiative and communicate at any level is also essential. In return we offer a good commencing salary, 4 weeks' holiday, £1 per day luncheon vouchers, interest free season ticket loans, pension scheme and free life assurance.

Please telephone for an application form or alternatively write to me at the following address: Frances Holland, Phillips Petroleum Company Europe-Africa, Portland House, Stag Place, London, SW1E 5DA, or telephone: 01-228 9766, ext. 467.

Phillips Petroleum Company
The Performance Company



SEC. TO CHAIRMAN £5,500

You'll be working for the Chairman of this big London ad agency. And you'll need real organising and liaison skills. Together with top secretarial skills. Smart presentation and good telephone manner a must. Lots of client contact.

CONFIDENTIAL SEC./P.A. £5,000 + BONUS
You'll be working for the international director of this giant ad agency. The job is not for a career minded go-getter but ideal for an efficient, polished, senior sec. who is used to dealing at top management level. Great involvement with main board top clients. No ad agency ego necessary.

Please phone Linnette Boniface or Kate Lawrence on 493 6456

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Assistant Matron/Nursing Officer

for North London's most popular private hospital.

Are you in your early thirties and more interested in nursing than administration? There will be plenty of scope for your abilities in this 243-bedded, old-established private hospital near Hampstead Heath. You will take charge of 4 wards, caring for a variety of general and orthopaedic surgical and medical cases, coping with emergencies as they arise, and understudying a Deputy Matron.

Your salary, depending on age and experience, will be £4,700-£5,700, and you'll work a 37½-hour week, days only. Superannuation is transferable from the NHS.

A Theatre Sister is also required.

This post would suit a senior staff nurse looking for promotion. The hospital is very attractively situated, and can offer single accommodation if needed. Please telephone Hilary Shenton on 01-437 6900.

Medox Paramedical Ltd.,
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136 Regent Street,
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SENIOR SECRETARY

Dow, one of the world's leading chemical companies, has an exciting opportunity for an efficient secretary here in Hounslow.

We are looking for someone with the qualities necessary to act as the right hand for our Company Secretary and Treasurer. You will need excellent organisational and administrative skills, a responsible attitude, and the ability to work very much on your own initiative, as well as first-class shorthand and typing skills.

This is an excellent opportunity for a good secretary to play a vital role in a forward-thinking company. In addition to an excellent starting salary, we offer an attractive package of fringe benefits and first-class working conditions in our new offices.

So, if you're interested in a responsible secretarial position, please write to:

Mrs. Diana M. Helmer,
Dow Chemical Company Ltd.,
Meadowbank, Bath Road, Hounslow, TW5 9QY.
or call her on 01-759 2600.

SECRETARIES FOR DAKS-SIMPSON LTD.

We have two vacancies for Junior Secretaries with good shorthand and typing skills. The successful candidates will be offered excellent working conditions including subsidised lunches and discount on personal purchases. Written applications (which will be treated in the strictest confidence) should be sent to the details of education and experience and be sent to:

THE PERSONNEL EXECUTIVE (LONDON),
DAKS-SIMPSON LTD.,
34 JERMYN STREET, SW1.

INDEPENDENCE RESPONSIBILITY

London office of progressive but modest international textile group needs mature, meticulous and adaptable

MANAGER/ESS

to handle secretarial work and telex, process export orders, look after visitors, etc.

Salary: £6,000 plus
Phone 01-222 4485

£6,000+ MORTGAGE STRATFORD E.15

Know working for a dynamic and progressive company? If you're looking for a career opportunity, you'll find it here. We have a small but growing company in Stratford, E.15, and we're looking for a motivated and ambitious person to join our team. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and a mortgage. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

Crone Corkill

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SECRETARY TO MANAGING DIRECTOR

We are an expanding public property company in W.I., with a small friendly office. We are looking for an intelligent, well-educated, and experienced person to act as Secretary to the Managing Director. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and a mortgage. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

EMBASSY SECRETARY BILINGUAL ENGLISH/FRENCH

Secretarial position for a French-speaking person with excellent English and French skills. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and a mortgage. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

FILM CO.!

Young Sec/P.A. minimum 4 years' experience. Good shorthand and typing skills. Well paid and of sound educational background. Salary to £5,000 p.a. Write to: C.M. & Co. Ltd., 20, Finsbury Street, London, N1.

Elizabeth Hunt

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

For Managing Director of International S.W.I.-based company. You'll need to be a good organiser, lots of V.P. contact, 60/110.

WATERLOO

P.A. Sec. to the M.D. of Management and Training Consultants.

KENSINGTON

P.A. Sec. to the Senior Partner of a prestigious firm of Architects. Plenty of responsibility and involvement in business and personal affairs.

CITY

Senior Secretary for top Estate Agents. Full P.A./Sec. role. Recently modernised offices and friendly atmosphere.

INTERNATIONAL PA

If you enjoy client contact, like to be busy and are looking for a position in the City, our clients, an international computer company, would like to see you. If you have a degree as well as Sec. skills, even better.

Elizabeth Hunt Recruitment Consultants
18 Grosvenor Street London W1 Telephone 01-499 2921

SENIOR SECRETARY FOR DIRECTOR OF PERSONNEL

The Oval

The Oval Elevator Company are the world's leading manufacturer of lifts and escalators.

Our Director of Personnel has responsibility for personnel matters throughout the U.K. and is looking for a Senior Secretary to assist him. The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role and will be responsible for organising a heavy workload.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years' experience in a similar role and will be responsible for organising a heavy workload.

This position will give you frequent contact with the management and staff at Head Office, therefore the ability to communicate clearly at all levels is essential.

We offer an excellent starting salary along with the usual range of large company benefits and attractive modern offices. Applications should be marked 'P.H. Sec.' and sent to: Mr. J. Davies, Personnel Officer, Oval Elevator Company Limited, 45/49 Clapham Road, London SW9 4JZ. Telephone: 01-759 9441.

OTIS ELEVATOR COMPANY

SECRETARY

Hammersmith £5,100+

Conoco North Sea Inc. can offer you the chance to become closely involved in one of the newest North Sea technology projects which is being worked on at our offices in Hammersmith.

You must have first-class secretarial skills, good all round experience and be capable of working long hours on your own initiative. You will be part of a busy team handling varied and technical correspondence as well as dealing with enquiries and arranging travel and meetings for our Manager and associates. For the right person, able to handle this responsible job cheerfully and efficiently, we will offer an excellent starting salary, plus 4 weeks' annual holiday, £1.00 per day L.V.s, annual season ticket loan and a non-contributory pension scheme. Right away for an application form to:

Mrs. V. Slacks
Continental Oil Co. Ltd.
Park House, 116 Park Street, London W1Y 4NN
Tel. 01-493 1235 ext. 2156/7



CONOCO NORTH SEA INC.

SECRETARY FOR INTERNATIONAL LAWY

Experienced Secretary (Short) required by Partner in the Internal Department of a leading firm of Solicitors. Good knowledge of French occasional shorthand and translation. Pleasant working conditions in offices close to Liverpool Street and St. James Station.

Age 25+. Hours 9.30 to 5.30. 4 weeks day. Holidays honoured. 75p per Luncheon Voucher, non-contributory pension, season ticket loan. Salary £5,200 negotiable. Telephone: 628 4666.

PARIS

Experienced personal secretary to run representative office of Merchant Bank. English mother tongue good command of French.

Applicants must have excellent secretarial skills good appearance.

Please telephone Paris 7274303 or write to: 40 Bis Rue Boissiere, 75116 Paris.

TEMPORARY VACANCY

Why not be a graduate? We currently have vacancies for graduates in the fields of: Banking, Insurance, Law, Medicine, Science, Social Work, Teaching, etc. If you are interested, please apply to: 40 Bis Rue Boissiere, 75116 Paris.

SECRETARIES YOUR NEXT MOVE? THEN READ ON...

Involvement and rewards will be the key aspects of the job you are seeking. You will have sound experience in office administration and in handling people and situations. You will also consider a good education and a flexible disposition to be important.

We-Davy McKee, a British international engineering contracting company, have several positions for Secretaries available which we believe will offer you the right incentives to join us and which we should be pleased to discuss in greater detail with a view to arranging an early interview.

Please phone me: Bob Davies, Personnel Manager, Recruitment Limited, 8 Baker Street, London W1A 6RD. Tel: 01-486 6677 Ext 163

Appointments also on page 18

GENERAL VAC.

International Tracing Reg

CLERICAL VAC.

SUPERB LEGAL ORGANISER

Set up new London office for a Northern based solicitor's practice. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and a mortgage. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

SECRETARY FLUENT ITALIAN

Excellent opportunity to use your language skills and secretarial skills for a top executive concerned with overseas expansion and development. Please apply for interview appointment to: Personnel Department, AQUASOLUTUM LIMITED, 100 Regent Street, London, W1A 2AG. Tel: 01-754 0000

ADMINISTRATOR

Able Administrator/Secretary required. Some P.R. work. Must have administrative experience in Educational/Cultural organisation, be familiar with Indian culture. Time and salary negotiable. Please reply with complete bio-data to: Hon. Gen. Sec., Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan, 44 Castle Street, London, W14 9HQ.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL COMPANY

Senior Administrator/Secretary with excellent secretarial skills and good knowledge of French & German. Must be able to handle a heavy workload and be able to work on your own initiative. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

CITY CONSULTANT

Due to expansion we urgently seek an experienced Banking and/or Secretarial consultant in our prestige City office. We offer career prospects, a competitive salary and a mortgage. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

SECRETARY/PA FOR ARCHITECTS

Small firm of Architects based in the City. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and a mortgage. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of acceptance in Times Newspaper Limited. Copies of which are available on request.

St. Bartholomew's Hospital

Secretary/Personal Assistant

You can become our District Nursing Officer's invaluable right hand if you can combine your bright personality with proven organising and secretarial skills. It is an interesting job that will also involve you in administrative duties and bring you into contact with all grades of hospital staff and that will make the most of your initiative and your personality.

Salary £4,500-£5,500 p.a. inclusive. If you have given you an application for an interesting job, application forms and a job description are available from the Personnel Department, St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London EC1A 7BE. Tel. 01-600 9000 ext. 3106 quoting reference no. BGA/5.

We promise you won't get bored!

Closing date 18 April, 1980.

SHARPEY-SCHAFER CENTRE

SECRETARY to Director

£7,800-£8,400 including London Weighting.

Salary review pending. This post should provide an interesting and challenging experience for someone with initiative, willing to take responsibility and an ambition to move into administration.

Personality and good shorthand/typing skills are essential initial requirements, as is a willingness to work as part of a team. The hospital is near Waterloo and Westminster stations and facilities include a subsidised staff canteen, swimming pool, library, and sports and social club.

If you are interested please telephone Frances Gould on 01-528 8292, Ext. 2713, or write to Sharpey-Schaffer Centre, 100 Strand, London, WC2R 0AL. Tel. 01-528 8292.

INTERNATIONAL ADVERTISING AGENCY

seeks a part-time Receptionist to work in luxurious surroundings from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. alongside our full-time Receptionist.

You should be over 23 years, attractive, chic and charming with lots of common sense and ideally with some experience (although not essential).

We are offering a good salary, generous dress and hair allowances and annual bonus along with other excellent staff benefits.

Applicants, male or female, should apply to Rosie Davies on 01-935 4426

MARKETING P.A. £6,000

This company is part of a vast international group of companies. It is looking for a part-time Marketing P.A. to assist the Marketing Director. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and a mortgage. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

SENIOR SECRETARIES

Recruitment Consultants 01-499 0092 01-495 5907

£5,800

Italian/English speaking secretary with 100 word English shorthand for senior course of ECI 510. Benefits include mortgage subsidy.

TEMPORARIES

Secretaries/shorthand typists with speeds of 100/50 minimum required for City locations.

CHOICE APPOINTMENTS

48 CORNHILL, EC3
Tel: 01-421 0739

PERSONAL SEC./P.A. 2nd JOBBER

c. £6,000-£6,500
You may have read incorrectly that you must be a graduate to get a job in a top company. But that's not true. We are looking for a personal secretary/p.a. for a top company. The successful candidate will be offered a competitive salary and a mortgage. Please apply to: Ring 628 4235

ADMIN SECRETARY £6,000

Person with exceptional organising ability to be responsible for administrative work in a large London office of international Company. Smart appearance for dealing with visitors. Excellent shorthand and typing skills and good education. Plenty of variety. Ring Panny Molan

493 1251

ADMINISTRATOR £6,000

Computer company ECI has career opening for well educated person with sound commercial knowledge to be involved with customers' queries. Must have initiative. Ring Panny Molan

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PERSONAL CHOICE

Broadcasting Guide

Edited by Peter Davalle

TELEVISION

BBC 1

9.55 am *Ludwig*: story for children: 10.00 *Jackanory*: Maudie's Debutante reads *Brigid* Chard's *Forerunner* (r): 10.15 *Travellers and the Spider People* (r): 10.35 *Hang on Doggy*: part 3 of this Hungarian film about a boy and his dog: *Closedown* at 11.00. 12.45 pm News and weather.

1.00 *Peckinpah* at One: *Cookery* from the American expert *Rusty Seiger*. Also a celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Liverpool to Manchester Railway. 1.45 *Heads and Tails*: With Derek Griffiths (r): *Closedown* at 2.00. 3.55 *Play School*: *Let's Hill* tells the story of Mac and Mavis.

4.20 *The Space Sentinels*: Animated science fiction story: *Morpheus*, the sinister Sentinel (r): 4.40 *Wildcat*: New series. Tony Soprano campaigns for the rights of the barn owl and the eagle.

BBC 2

10.00 *Gather*: For Asian women. Items on cooking, sewing. Also, music and a story. *Closedown* at 10.45. 11.00 *Play School*: Same as BBC 1. 11.55 *Closedown* at 11.55. 12.20 pm *Racing from Ascot*: Live coverage of four races, the big event being the three-mile *Hermes* Stakes. The others are the 2.35, 3.05 and the 4.10. *Closedown* at 4.20.

4.40 *Play School*: *Let's Hill* tells the story of Mac and Mavis. 4.55 *Little Seed*: Animated science fiction story: *Morpheus*, the sinister Sentinel (r): 4.40 *Wildcat*: New series. Tony Soprano campaigns for the rights of the barn owl and the eagle.

THAMES

9.30 am *Australian Snakes*: Short documentary about their life cycle (r). 9.50 *Who's Afraid of Opera?*: Joan Sutherland uses puppets to try to win children over to Lucia di Lammermoore: 10.15 *Conquest of the Sea*: What happens on the Japanese seabed: 11.05 *Young Ramsay*: story of a canine fishfinder (r): 11.35 *The Bubbler*: Puppet story. 12.00 *Clappa's Castle*: More puppet fun, this time set in medieval times: 12.10 pm *Rainbow*: *Zippy* in the countryside. 12.30 *Camera*: First of 13 films about the early days of photography, presented by Gus Macdonald. How Queen Victoria got interested in the art (r). 1.00 *News*. 1.20 *News*. 1.30 *Take the High Road*: Serial about a Scottish estate. The arrival of an unexpected type of architect. 2.00 *After Noon News*: A tribute to *Monty Python*: readings by the leading poet Seamus Heaney; and the homeless 18-year-olds who were formerly in care of the local authorities. 2.45 *The Outsiders*: Australian outdoor stories. *Charlie* (Andrew Kerr) and the *Woolly* (Sally Square One): *Quiz* show. 3.00 *Quiz* show. 3.15 *Quiz* show. 3.30 *Quiz* show. 3.45 *Quiz* show. 4.00 *Quiz* show. 4.15 *Quiz* show. 4.30 *Quiz* show. 4.45 *Quiz* show. 5.00 *Quiz* show. 5.15 *Quiz* show. 5.30 *Quiz* show. 5.45 *Quiz* show. 6.00 *Quiz* show. 6.15 *Quiz* show. 6.30 *Quiz* show. 6.45 *Quiz* show. 7.00 *Quiz* show. 7.15 *Quiz* show. 7.30 *Quiz* show. 7.45 *Quiz* show. 8.00 *Quiz* show. 8.15 *Quiz* show. 8.30 *Quiz* show. 8.45 *Quiz* show. 9.00 *Quiz* show. 9.15 *Quiz* show. 9.30 *Quiz* show. 9.45 *Quiz* show. 10.00 *Quiz* show. 10.15 *Quiz* show. 10.30 *Quiz* show. 10.45 *Quiz* show. 11.00 *Quiz* show. 11.15 *Quiz* show. 11.30 *Quiz* show. 11.45 *Quiz* 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